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THE TIMES

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MOTHERS AND DAUGHTERS

Celia Brayfield on Paula Yates

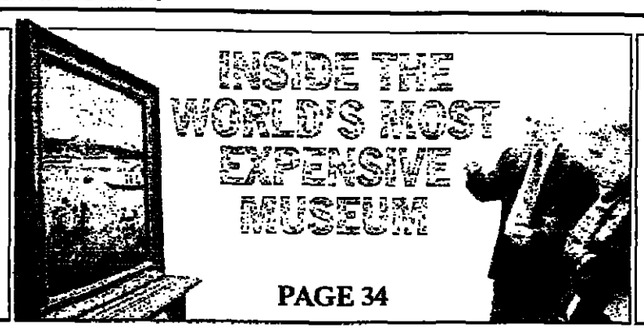
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CURE THAT HANGOVER

Dr Stuttaford's medicine chest

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INSIDE THE WORLD'S MOST EXPENSIVE MUSEUM

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Grown-ups behaving badly at Christmas

PAGE 18



Retaliation for safety check delay

Britain puts health ban on EU beef

BY CHARLES BREMNER, PHILIP WEBSTER AND MICHAEL HORNSBY

BRITAIN plunged into a new confrontation with Europe over beef yesterday when Jack Cunningham imposed a unilateral ban on imports that do not meet the safety standards required of British meat.

The Agriculture Minister announced his decision after the EU voted 14-1 to delay the introduction of such checks throughout the Community until next April.

In language reminiscent of John Major's "beef war" in the summer of 1996, he attacked "fraudulent" arguments being put forward in Brussels and claimed that his EU counterparts had "prevaricated and obfuscated" to avoid new anti-BSE health controls.

There were legal doubts over Britain's move last night, and suspicions in Brussels that Dr Cunningham was seeking to distract attention from his ban on the sale of beef on the bone, which came into force at midnight in spite of protests and demonstrations by farmers, butchers and consumers. No other European state has imposed such a restriction.

It was clear also that the impact of his gesture would be limited. Meat from Ireland, the main importer to Britain with 54,000 tonnes last year, France and The Netherlands already conforms to the planned code on the removal of the brain, spinal cord and eyes from cattle, sheep and goats. However, there was an obvious risk of the "war" being resumed, with the possibility of action against Britain in the European Court.

The strongest objection to the new British rules could be expected from Germany, which claims that it has no BSE and so its producers should not be burdened with costly processing requirements.

The European Commission sought the delay in the slaughterhouse code — agreed last July and due to come into effect on January 1 — after opposition from Germany and half a dozen other EU states, as well as the United States, whose pharmaceutical and cosmetic industries are affected. Last Saturday the Americans extended their own ban of European beef imports in what Brussels saw as retaliation for the proposed meat hygiene rules.

A unilateral ban on beef imports would certainly breach EU rules covering the single market, as Dr Cunningham accepted. "I cannot ban imports of beef — though I think farmers would like me to — that would be a matter that would have me straight into the European Court," he said. "But I can insist that it can only come in if it has had the specified risk materials removed and been treated the same as British beef."

That approach would break no rules, he said, because he was demanding only that meat sold in the shops should be subject to uniform safety checks. The Commission said it would form an opinion after considering the proposed ban in detail.

Dr Cunningham added: "I believe that people who have been opposed to the original decision have just been prevaricating and obfuscating and delaying. I am going to implement it unilaterally on behalf of the United Kingdom to make sure beef coming in is as safe as the beef we have at home. I can't believe that it is good for the reputation of the Commission or the EU that a decision properly taken in July has got to the point where it has failed to be implemented six months later."

He rejected the claims of eight nations that they did not need such measures because they had not suffered from BSE. If the EU were to operate a single market in beef, the same rules and regulations had to apply throughout.

"There is a single market in beef, it is traded around that single market and there is no guarantee that beef coming from any country in the EU is beef that has been raise in that country. You can purchase beef in one country where BSE exists and wholesale it from another country where BSE doesn't exist. So it is a completely fraudulent argument to suggest that somehow that provides a safeguard. It doesn't provide any safeguard at all."

Last year Britain imported 150,000 tonnes of beef worth £363 million from all sources, of which 93,100 tonnes came from the rest of the European Union, according to the Meat and Livestock Commission.

The Ministry of Agriculture said last night that all non-EU suppliers, with the exception of New Zealand and Australia, would have to comply with the new regulations if their meat was to marketable in Britain. Australia and New Zealand are considered to pose no threat from either BSE or scrapie, the related sheep disease.

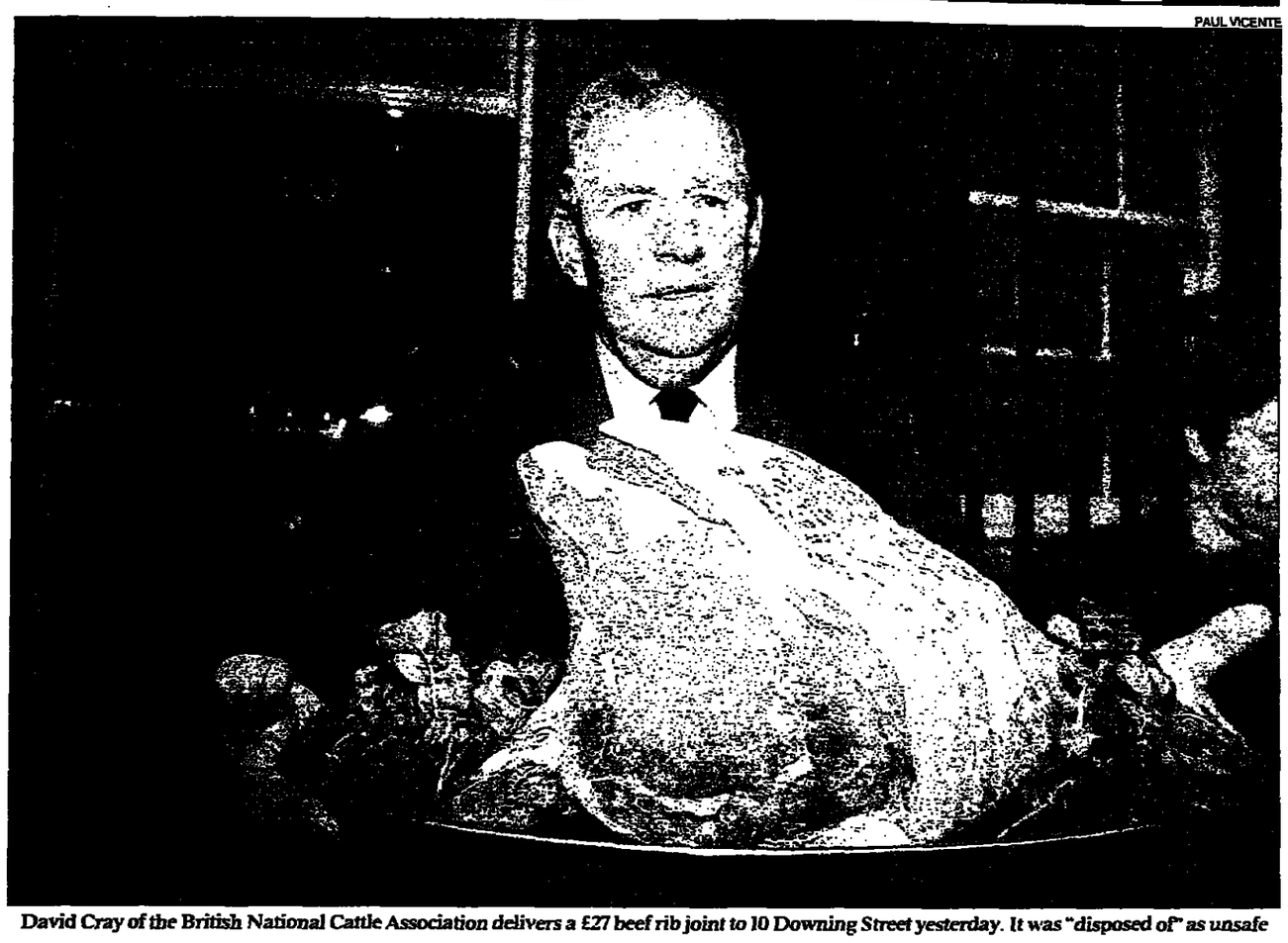
An aid package for hill farmers affected by the BSE crisis is expected to be announced later this week.

Sales ban, page 4
Letters, page 19



"Me? They found a rib of beef in the bottom of my suitcase"

PAUL VICENTE



David Cray of the British National Cattle Association delivers a £27 beef rib joint to 10 Downing Street yesterday. It was "disposed of" as unsafe

Downing Street rib joint ends in bin

BY ADRIAN LEE

A 15lb rib of beef was delivered to 10 Downing Street yesterday — and was destined to go straight into the dustbin.

The joint was taken to the doors of No 10 in protest at the ban on the sale of beef on the bone, which took effect at midnight. The National Cattle Association said it wanted the Prime Minister could experience the "excellence of the product" first hand and handed it to a policeman.

It was taken inside, but a Downing Street spokesman said that it would be thrown away, in line with government advice that it was not safe to eat. "Obviously this is part of a publicity campaign by farmers and they are perfectly entitled to make their case. But clearly the beef on the bone cannot be eaten and it will be disposed of."

The demonstration outside No 10 was one of a series of protests and rallies opposing the ban, while customers were rushing to buy T-bone steaks, ribs and oxtails before the midnight deadline.

And last night pubs and restaurants held defiant farewell celebrations to traditional favourites. At Butchers' Hall, near Smithfield meat market, about 100 guests of the City caterers Chester Boyd feasted on oxtail soup and baron of beef washed down with bullshot, a drink made from vodka and beef consomme.

Farewell Dinner for the Roast Beef of Olde England

Oxtail Soup with Chestnuts

Roast Baron of Beef on the bone
Horseradish Relish
Pommes Boulangère *(with Beef Stock)*
Mélange of Beans

Treacle Pudding with Traditional Custard

Croque Cunningham

Rich Roast Arabica Coffee & Sweetmeats

The final night's menu

At Westminster, butchers in working aprons paraded with a forerib of beef outside the House of Commons and presented the Conservative MP Bill Cash with a petition signed by 106,000 members of the public requesting that they be allowed to make up their own minds. "To get so many signatures in just four days shows that the public is overwhelmingly against this ban, which was a kneejerk, panic measure," Mr Cash said. "The British public do not want a nanny state telling them what to eat."

Trading standards officers have also written to the Government complaining that the new law is confusing and could be impossible to enforce, and a black market is expected to flourish.

Gordon Gresty, head of trading standards in North Yorkshire, expected butchers with regular customers in small communities to flout the ban. "It is going to be extremely difficult to police. I am certain we will see under-the-counter deals which will be virtually impossible to stop."

Bob Dove, a butchers in Battersea, southwest London, also believed that a black market might thrive, but said: "I suspect the Government will soon stop us buying beef on the bone if they suspect butchers of breaking the law." That would play into the hands of the supermarkets and send scores of independent butchers under.

Both Mr Dove and Danny Hepburn, a butcher from Mountnessing, Essex, reported that customers had been stockpiling beef. Mr Hepburn said: "They are disgusted by this. One man came in at the weekend and filled his boot with foreribs and oxtail. I have sold more oxtails in the last week than I would normally sell in a year."

By last night, however, most restaurants had reluctantly removed beef on the bone from their menus. Michel Bourdin, head chef at the Connaught Grill in London, said he felt like committing suicide, but added: "I will adapt, what can I do? I don't want to go to jail for trying to save British gastronomy."

Stubby Kaye dies aged 79

Stubby Kaye, the chubby comic who rose to stardom with his performances as Nicely-Nicely Johnson in the stage and film versions of *Guys and Dolls*, has died, aged 79, at his home in California.

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South set for the big freeze

BY PAUL WHITTAKER

MUCH of Britain will today experience the coldest day of winter yet with weather forecasters warning of below freezing conditions and snow flurries in some areas.

The coldest temperatures are expected in southern England as icy winds spread in from eastern Europe. Temperatures in Moscow plummeted to -27C yesterday.

A London Weather Centre spokesman said last night that everywhere across the South East would struggle to stay above zero today.

"There will be some flurries of snow today but we are not expecting any significant falls. We should see the odd dusting. It is possible some areas will get a little bit more," he said.

The spokesman said temperatures nationwide ranged between 4C and 6C yesterday with the coldest day of winter — which officially began on December 1 on the meteorological calendar — set to arrive in most areas today.

He said it was too early to predict which areas could expect a white Christmas, with most of the country returning to temperatures nearer normal by the end of the week.

Photograph, page 12
Forecast, page 24

'CJD' blood products given to 3,000 patients

BY AUDREY MAGEE AND IAN MURRAY

UP TO 3,000 people treated in 100 British hospitals may have been injected with blood products taken from a donor who died six weeks ago from new variant Creuzfeldt-Jakob Disease, the human form of BSE.

None of them is to be told because the Health Department believes the risk of them developing the disease is so slight that there is no reason to cause alarm.

Although hospitals have been advised to return the product, used in X-ray screenings to detect lung disease, so far only 15 per cent has been recovered.

There is no order obliging hospitals to return it and some clinicians may go on using up stocks on the basis that patients are far more likely to die from infections or cancer that can be diagnosed with the product than from CJD.

Another 268 patients in Ireland are known to have been given injections from the same batch of the product. The Irish Health Ministry has decided to notify all the patients concerned.

Even though the identity of all those who have been given an injection of the product is known, it was decided not to tell them because there is no evidence that the illness can be transmitted through the blood or the serum derived from it to make the product and the risk of developing CJD is regarded as negligible.

"You are putting an enormous burden on people by telling them they have a remote risk of contracting the disease," the department said last night. "The ethics committee which advises us on these matters decided it was just not appropriate to tell them."

A blood transfusion service spokesman said: "There is no test for CJD or treatment so what would you say to people? They should not be informed because you are likely to cause a lot of unnecessary anxiety."

The blood from the donor was sent 18 months ago to the National Blood Transfusion Service laboratory, where it was split into a number of different products. The donor's plasma was mixed with some taken from 49,000 other donors to make 8,174 bottles of albumin, the water-soluble protein found in blood.

Many were exported but 210 of the 50ml bottles remained in Britain and were sent to eight different hospitals and companies. Some of the bottles were used intravenously to rehydrate burn victims.

One bottle was sent to Nycomed Amersham which used it to produce 14,000 vials of Amerscan Pulmonate II, an agent which is injected into the lungs so that infections and cancer show up under X-Ray.

The company sent almost 3,700 vials to 100 British hospitals between July and November. The rest was exported to about 40 different countries.

At the end of October the European Committee on Proprietary Medicinal Products issued new guidelines requiring the withdrawal of blood products derived from donors who were confirmed CJD cases.

☐ *Despite regular alarms,* there has never been any convincing evidence that blood or blood products can transmit CJD (Nigel Hawkes writes). Unless new variant CJD, the human form of "mad cow" disease, is more easily transmitted than classic CJD via blood or blood products, there does not appear to be any cause for concern.

For classic CJD the risk seems negligible. About 50 people a year die of the disease, so it is certain that every year some of them give blood after they have the infection but before its symptoms appear. Studies show that classic CJD can be passed on in human tissue, but not — so far as we know — in blood.

RAF to retrieve Branson balloon

A Royal Air Force Hercules crew has been drafted in to retrieve Richard Branson's stranded balloon in Algeria.

The balloon, which broke its moorings last week just before the Virgin chief's latest attempt to circumnavigate the globe, will be picked up by the RAF crew today and taken to the Branson team base in Morocco. Mr Branson will meet the cost.

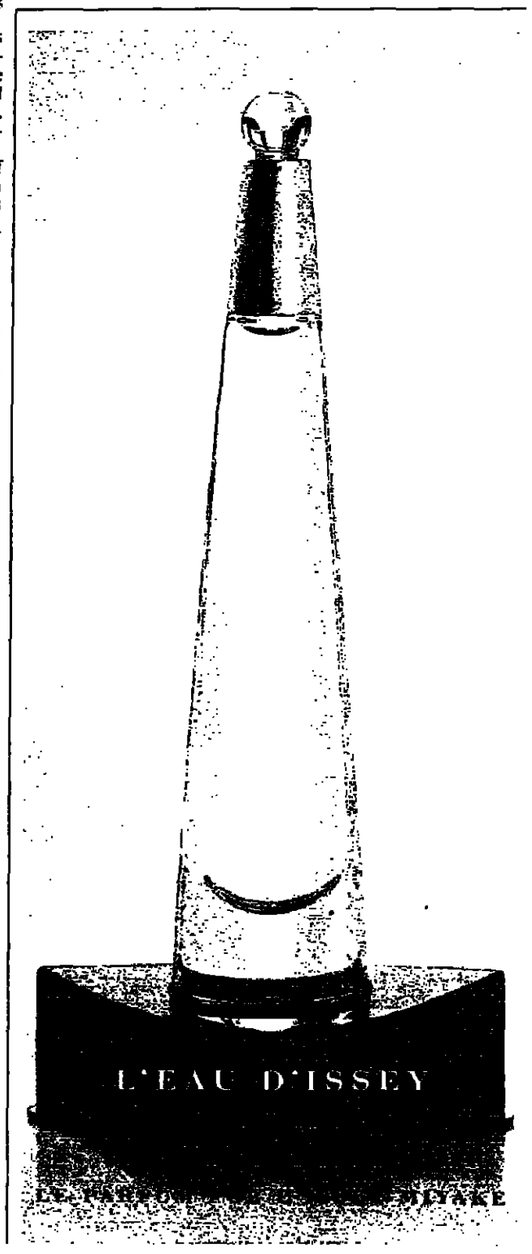
Yard condemned over murder case

Scotland Yard's inquiry into the murder of Stephen Lawrence, the black teenager, was flawed by "significant weaknesses, omissions and lost opportunities" according to a scathing report published by the Police Complaints Authority.

The report was drawn up after Mr Lawrence's parents complained about the way the case was handled ..... Page 9

80 are killed in desert air crash

An airliner carrying 86 people crashed in the desert yesterday nine miles from Sharjah airport in the United Arab Emirates, killing at least 80 people. The Tupolev aircraft was en route from Tajikistan to Sharjah. Security men at the ground where England were playing Pakistan were called to the scene *(AP)*



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Icy chill pushes aside memories of summer

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

WINTER can come suddenly. One week it is an Indian summer; then you open a window and the season has turned.

Watching Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary, knocked about at the dispatch box during questions yesterday, we seemed to see a political summer fled as fast. A fortnight ago the Commons scene looked set fair for the Government. Every question time was the same. Tories asked rude or silly questions. Ministers ignored them. Labour backbenchers asked poodling questions, then rolled onto their backs to have their tummies patted.

Returning to the gallery yesterday felt like returning, not after a weekend, but after a year on another planet: a year during which goodwill had ebbed slowly away and the Government's credit with its backbenches had gradually been spent. There was a sharpness in the air. Parliament had regained its edge. It was not the same place as we left last Wednesday.

Here is Lynne Jones (Lab, Selly Oak), who asked sarcastically whether ministers thought a weekly payment of £77 to lone mothers was adequate. "What confidence can people have in the Prime Minister's weekend statement about looking after those in need?"

Here is Llew Smith (Lab, Blaenau Gwent), who asked Ms Harman "how many constituents visiting her surgery this weekend urged her to stick to Tory spending cuts?" Diane Abbott (Lab, Hackney N and Stoke Newington) cast doubt on whether Ms Harman's "new deal" for lone parents was actually getting more into work.

Here is David Winnick (Lab, Walsall N) insisting, with a wry glance at his front bench, that he himself was "not worried in any way" that the Government might sell out on the disabled. "The Prime Minister says the disabled will be protected and that's what Labour MPs want. She [Ms Harman] should bear in mind not just Treasury ministers."

These are known leftwingers. What is new is not their views, but a willingness now to lift a more (or less) tentative snout above ground and express them. Dennis Skinner (Lab, Bolsover) even took a kick at Ms Harman's scary Minister of State, Frank Field, instead of the easier target presented by the Secretary of State herself. Old opinions have gathered new muscle in a matter of days.

Less showy, but as interesting, was the worried silence of most loyal backbenchers and the obvious *hunger for reassurance of those* who spoke. Harman was ill-supported and the cheers were ragged.

As a debater Ms Harman seems incapable of meshing with anything but a repetition of her own opinions. On each new occasion she takes refuge in a new catchphrase. Last time it was "restructuring welfare around the work ethic". Yesterday people did not want to be "written off to a life of dependence on benefits" — as though anyone had suggested they did. Questions are simply ignored — met with a tin-voiced repetition of the day's mantra.

Frank Field does not ignore questions. When Professor Steven Webb, the Liberal Democrat *spokesman*, is called to put a question, Skinner is wont to shout "this 'ad better be good", and yesterday Webb *was* good. Tony Blair, he said, *had promised* to protect the benefits of disabled people in need. Did Mr Field think any were *not* in need?

"If he [Webb] thinks they are all equally entitled," replied Field coolly, "his constituents must be different from mine."

In a wokful of tofu from Ms Harman, a shard of flint from Mr Field can break your teeth.

Hague takes traditional route to altar

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

WILLIAM HAGUE and Ffion Jenkins, who have been living together since July, will revert to tradition on the eve of their wedding day and spend the night apart.

The Tory leader will savour the last moments of bachelorhood on Thursday night with Sebastian Coe, the double Olympic gold medallist, who is his chief of staff.

Wine and beer will be flowing until the early hours at Mr Coe's Surrey home as Mr Hague, 36, puts the finishing touches to the most nerve-wracking speech of his life after the ceremony at the Gothic chapel of St Mary Undercroft at the Palace of Westminster.

Miss Jenkins, 29, who will spend the evening at a family dinner, has also adhered to convention. She has denied her husband a glimpse of her wedding dress. Mr Hague has not even been told where she bought it. Only a handful of close friends and family are in the know.

The bride's elder sister, Manon Williams, 32, who is the assistant private secretary to the Prince of Wales, will be the only bridesmaid. There was speculation last night that the eve-of-wedding family dinner would be held in Dr Williams's grace-and-favour *apartment at Kensington* Palace.

"They are both great believers in the traditions of marriage. They will not be together the night before and Willam will not see the dress until Ffion walks into the chapel," a Tory official said last night.

They have not always been so conformist. The youngest Tory leader for 200 years became the first to live openly with an unmarried woman when they moved into his rented flat.

The couple have since taken a bigger apartment in the same complex in London. It will be their marital home during the week.

At the party conference in Blackpool Mr Hague had his first disagreement with Baroness Thatcher, who helped him to secure the leadership, when he shared a suite with his fiancee. The former Prime Minister was critical of his decision.

Leading article ..... page 19

"This is different. You get married only once. They both wanted to do it the right way. I think you will find most brides like to be with their Mum the night before," one of Mr Hague's friends said.

Details of the order of service were being withheld by the Tory leader's office but *Miss Jenkins has decided not* to promise to obey her future husband.

He, however, is already obeying the Oxford-educated graduate: he has agreed not to work on Sundays other than in exceptional circumstances and to take one weekend off each month.

Miss Jenkins has agreed to take Mr Hague's name but will continue to use her maiden name as operations director for the Association for British Sponsorship of the Arts.

Only five MPs will be among the 170 guests in the crypt when the couple pledge their vows in English and Welsh.

It was her knowledge of Welsh which kindled the spark of romance when she taught him to sing the National Anthem in her mother tongue when he was Welsh Secretary two years ago.

Three of the MPs, Alan Duncan, his political private secretary, Mr Coe, and David Lidington, his parliamentary aide, will act as ushers along with Nick Geeve, a school-friend.

The others are Julie Kirkbride, the MP for Bromsgrove, and her husband Andrew Mackay, the Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary. The last time they set foot in the chapel was at the end of July for a blessing of their marriage.

The reception is being held at the Speaker's House and the next day the couple will hold a party for the bride's family and friends in Wales before they go on honeymoon.

The location is one of politics' worst kept secrets: they *will stay at a series of romantic* settings in India and are expected to visit the Taj Mahal, one of the world's *most enduring monuments to* love.

Wedding presents are pouring in. Each member of the *Shadow Cabinet is donating* £50 for a gift. The remainder of the 164 Tory MPs gave £10 for their own present.

The latest request for a gift list is from the Conservatives Abroad branch in Pathos, Cyprus. They can choose between fish knives or tea towels.



The happy pair: William Hague and Ffion Jenkins will revert to tradition before their wedding day

DONALD STEWART



Shirley Stephen, Patricia Stephen, Isobel Podlesney and Wilma Cameron. Appeal caught public imagination

Anger after trawler bodies are finally brought home

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

Tony Blair should hang his head in shame over government failure to help us, say Sapphire families

THE families of the crew of the trawler Sapphire, finally lifted from the sea with the bodies of their loved ones, said yesterday that Tony Blair and his government ministers should hang their heads in *shame for refusing to provide* financial help for the recovery operation.

Just hours after four bodies *found on the vessel, which* sank in storms off Peterhead, Grampian, 76 days ago, had been formally identified, Wilma Cameron, *mother of one of* the victims, said: "We have prayed for this, to get our loved ones home. Now we do know that when you do pray you do get answers." The families have yet to decide whether to hold a joint funeral for the four men.

Widows Shirley Stephen, 24, Isobel Podlesny, 45, Patricia Stephen, 32, and Mrs Cameron, 58, paid tribute to the public for helping to raise the £500,000 needed to pay for *the recovery operation.*

The women set up the Sapphire Trust and launched a public appeal for funds after *Glenda Jackson, the Govern*ment's shipping minister, refused to help. Most of the money for the recovery was *raised within three days.*

Mrs Podlesny, whose husband Victor, died, said: "Glenda Jackson and Tony Blair can *hang their heads in shame. I* do hope they review the situation, so that if there is another tragedy no other family has to go through the agony that we have been through."

Mrs Stephen, speaking on the day her husband Robert would have celebrated his 26th birthday, said: "Never underestimate the power of *four women* because what we have done we have done on our own and with Alex's (Salmond) help and proved Glenda Jackson wrong. All we ever wanted was the boys home."

The lifting operation, which *had been repeatedly delayed* for two months due to bad weather, was the first of its kind. The Sapphire sank with*in sight of its home port of* Peterhead on October 1.

It was lying on its side on the seabed in 273 feet of water just 12 miles off-shore. On Sunday, after weeks of worry and anguish, hundreds of locals watched as the fishing boat finally returned home carried on the lifting wires of the Dutch floating crane barge Tak Lift 7. It then took a specialist team of police and salvage experts three hours to search the vessel and find the four men. Bruce Cameron, 32, Victor Podlesny, 45, Adam Stephen, 29, and Robert Stephen, 25. Their bodies were in *the wheelhouse and* accomodation area. Only the skipper, Victor Robertson, 27, had managed to survive after *escaping through the wheel*house window. He was picked up after spending 90 minutes in a liferaft. He has since left *the area.*

Alex Salmond, leader of the Scottish Nationalists, said it was an "extraordinary story of guts, resolution and determination by four families."

He said the women had been treated "shabbily" by the Government and he hoped the situation would now be reviewed so that other people did not find a "vacuum of responsibility were there should be help."

Ulster leaders fail in search for Christmas breakthrough

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

HOPES of a breakthrough before Christmas *in the deadlocked Stor*mont talks were fading last night as two weeks of negotiations between party leaders drew to a close with no agreement on a *future agenda.*

The leaders' working group was *intended to jumpstart the stalled* talks. However, barring a last-minute surprise, it will be unable to deliver an agreed direction at to*day's last plenary session before the* holiday. Sources predicted a face-saving paper to keep options open.

"The prognostications are not good," *said David Trimble, the* Ulster Unionist Party leader, whose *officials blamed Sinn Fein's for a* lack of realism and the Irish Government for a reluctance to break with Gerry Adams's party. A *Stormont source said: "We were* hoping to start the real business in the new year, but now we'll be coming back to work out what that *business should be."*

George Mitchell, the American talks chairman, proposed the working group this month to identify key issues and the best format for resolving them. Mr Trimble said *that his party and the nationalist* SDLP had agreed on a paper, but other parties had found it unacceptable. Unionists claimed that Sinn *Fein had rejected anything that* conceded the principle of consent or Northern Ireland's right to exist. SDLP officials were still hoping for a breakthrough, but suggested that the Unionists were as much to *blame, for opposing cross-border* bodies. The UUP and Sinn Fein were "in denial", said one. A Sinn Fein spokesman denied his party *was seeking to exclude any item.*

Mr Trimble also insisted he had no plans to meet Mr Adams "this week, next week, next month" or in "the foreseeable future". In a weekend television interview, the UUP leader had not ruled out a face-to-face meeting with the Sinn Fein president, but officials said that no such meeting was possible until Mr Adams had proved his commitment to peaceful, democratic methods.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Girl died after fax error at hospital

A girl aged 5 died because her medical records were sent to a fax machine in a locked room to which no *one* had access over a weekend. Doctors, unaware of her medical history, gave her a massive overdose of drugs, Southwark Coroner said.

Noorjehan Khan, 5, from Crawley, Sussex, who *suffered from giant* cell hepatitis, fell ill on a visit to Middlesbrough, and was given the new drug Tacrolimus at South Cleveland Hospital.

She died in her father's arms on August 11, after being transferred *to* King's College Hospital in south London.

Airport alert

More than 1,000 passengers were evacuated from *Heathrow's* Terminal One after a second fire alert within three days. It turned out to be a false *alarm* and passengers were allowed back within 20 minutes. Flights were not delayed. There was *disruption on* Friday after fire broke out in a restaurant.

Inquiry widens

Police investigating allegations of widespread child abuse at six residential care homes in South Wales have extended their inquiry to include a further 27 homes. The move follows an appeal for information from former residents of homes in the region. As a result officers have received a further 250 claims of abuse.

Bonus barred

A Christmas bonus scheme for prisoners has been dropped after complaints that offenders were receiving the same amount of cash as pensioners. Inmates at Walton jail in Liverpool will be allowed to spend an extra £10 from their own money rather than receive the bonus from prison shop profits.

Silent Duchess

A busy schedule is reported to have obliged the Duchess of York to turn down a cameo role in a Broadway musical. The Duchess had been invited to appear in a production of *Jekyll and Hyde* alongside her friend Linda Eder. The producers had offered to write a part for the duchess and a special song.

Artist in court

The sculptor Anthony Kelly, cousin of the Duke of Norfolk and a favour*ite artist of the Prince of* Wales, is to stand trial next month for allegedly stealing human body parts for use in works of art. Mr Kelly and Niel Kelly are charged with taking anatomical parts from the Royal College of Surgeons.

Saab reverses

A family-run business selling Indian food has won a legal battle against the Swedish car manufacturer Saab over the name of its pickles and spices. Saab has dropped its objection to the Bolton-based House of Raja using the name Memsaab. It had claimed the name was too similar to its own trademark.

You'd expect to find a signature on a masterpiece.
A used Mercedes is no exception.

Signature USED CARS

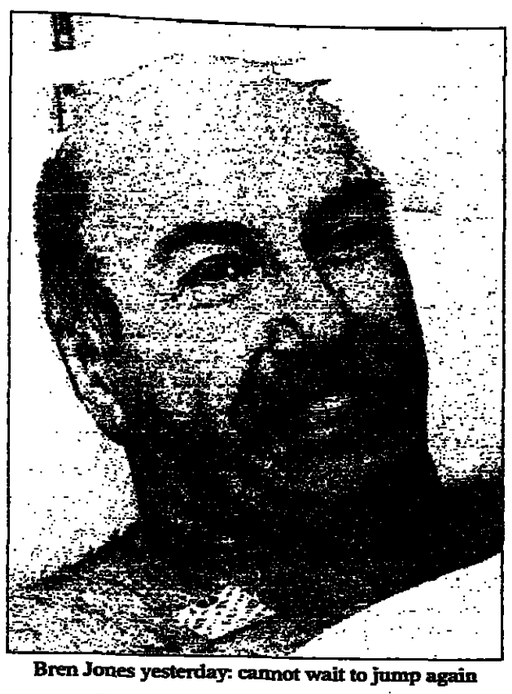
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Mercedes-Benz

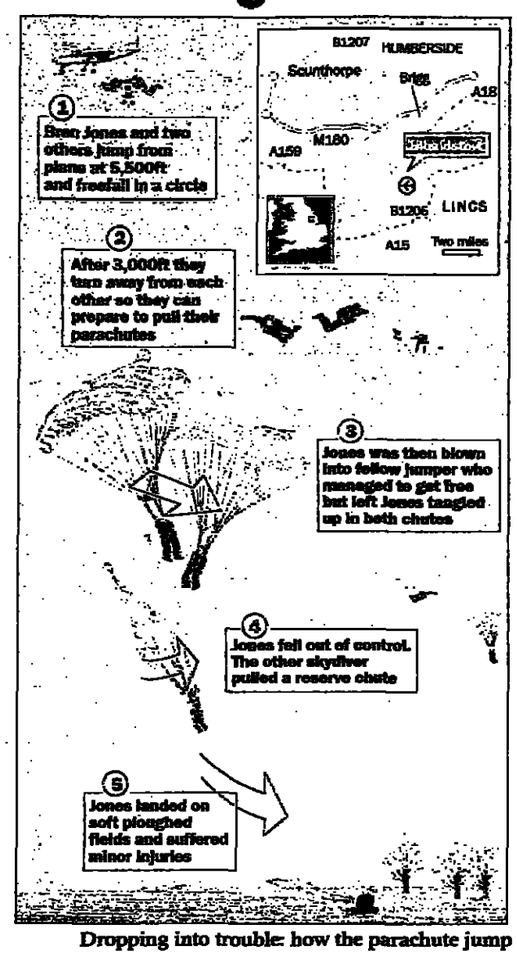
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That hurt, says man who fell 2,000ft



Bren Jones yesterday: cannot wait to jump again





Dropping into trouble: how the parachute jump went wrong. Mr Jones, pictured in action, was described by his friends as "a devil-may-care sort of bloke"

Mud, glorious mud, saves a grandfather from serious injury after parachute fails.

Paul Wilkinson reports

THERE was only one certainty in the mind of a 56-year-old skydiver as he plunged 2,000ft with a failed parachute. Bren Jones thought: "This is going to hurt."

Then he may have passed out. Moments later, he found himself lying in the soft mud of a rain-soaked field. As anxious friends approached, he sat up and started joking with them.

The parachuting fanatic, who has repeatedly claimed that his hobby is no more dangerous than crossing a road, had survived with no broken bones and no serious injuries. He was right about one thing: it certainly hurt.

Yesterday the grandfather was recovering in Lincoln County Hospital with a lot of bruising and a chipped bone in his back. Doctors are also monitoring pains in his legs. Experts think that the cushioning effect of the muddy ground saved him after his canopy became entangled with another parachutist, sending him spiralling down out of control. He said that he could not wait to jump again.

Mr Jones, who runs a suspended-ceiling business in Leeds, said: "I didn't have time to think about whether I would live or die. I was more concerned with just trying to control the parachute. The ground just approached painfully fast. I just knew it was going to hurt, and God it does.

"I can't remember hitting the ground. I'm just thankful I landed on soft, ploughed fields. I have extreme bruising which is giving me a lot of pain. This has not put me off parachuting and I will certainly be doing it again. It is a hobby which I enjoy and take seriously."

Friends describe Mr Jones as just the sort of character to jump out of a plane and land safely without a parachute. Last Christmas, the veteran of 3,500 jumps joined an international group to sky-dive at the North Pole, and he celebrated his 50th birthday by parachuting into his back garden. He also does charity jumps and once took up a thalidomide sufferer so that she could experience the thrill of parachuting.

The divorced father of three grown-up children had jumped at 5,500ft on Sunday with members of the Target Skysports Club, linking hands with two of them. They fell more than 3,000ft, reaching a speed of about 120mph, before pulling their ripcords over Hibaldstow airfield, near Scunthorpe, Lincolnshire. Mr Jones said: "The canopy opened fully, but there was a gust of wind and I got blown into another jumper and our chutes became entangled. We had no control. He shouted that he was going to disengage his parachute and then he used his reserve chute to land.

"But I could not free his chute from mine and I could not disengage them and use my reserve. I was completely tangled up. The canopy kept opening and closing and just flapping around. It was no use at all. I have no idea how fast I was dropping, but it is not something I would like to experience again."

Trevor Dobson, the club's chief instructor, watched from the ground. He said: "It was unlucky, and rare, but there was nothing either jumper could do to stop it. The other jumper managed to jettison his chute and went back into free-fall before deploying his reserve. But Bren was left with two canopies still attached. His kept inflating and deflating and he was totally out of control. Bren had the other chute tangled up with his, so he could not steer. It wasn't fully open, so he was falling faster than normal. His parachute was open but not fully, it was twisting around but still gave him some degree of support. He hit feet first, then his backside hit the ground.

"We found him semi-conscious. He recognised me and was joking to us. He saw the air ambulance arrive and asked 'I'm not going to have to parachute into the hospital am I?' Bren was lucky to escape with no more serious injury."

The British Parachute Association is investigating the incident. John Hitchin, the association's safety officer, said: "Mr Jones kept his nerve in a very trying situation. He may have blacked out before he hit the ground, but he seems to have deployed his reserve chute at about 300ft." Mr Jones's girlfriend, Carol Day, said: "It is remarkable he didn't break any bones. All he needs now is a couple of days' rest. I got a call from the hospital saying there had been a 'bit of an incident'. Although he was on painkillers, he was still his usual self, causing mayhem."

Mr Jones has been parachuting for 30 years, and has been a British Parachute Association instructor for 26 years. Heather Clark, 36, a programme production co-ordinator at Yorkshire-Tyne Tees TV, who has no arms and legs because of thalidomide, recalled how she had made a jump with him: "He's a very gentle man and was so nice. He even had a special harness made for me. It was once in a lifetime for me and Bren helped to make it.

"It was always something I had fancied doing, but I thought I wouldn't be able to because of my disability. Bren explained everything to me and put me at my ease.

Curtis Hall, 56, a friend, added: "He is a devil-may-care sort of bloke. His feelings on life are to live today because tomorrow you might be dead. He says you can get killed crossing the road as easily as you can parachute jumping. When he got into difficulty he would have kept cool, calm and collected. If there was anyone who could have got away with it, I would have put money on Bren being the man."

Resh Rall, who runs the newsagents near his home in Horsforth, Leeds, said: "He is a great man, a character and a half. He doesn't talk about his charity work. He would help anyone at any time. I bet that when he gets back here, he will saying nothing about it."

Airline chief fights off 'Quality Street' raiders

BY DANIEL MCGRORY AND TIM JONES

A MULTIMILLIONAIRE airline owner fought off two masked raiders who ambushed him inside his London home.

Police believe that Tony Ryan, 61, the owner of Ryanair, is the latest victim of "Quality Street" gangs who scour society columns and *Who's Who* to select targets.

He was punched and kicked to the floor by the men, who demanded that Mr Ryan revealed the combination number to his safe. The stockily built, bespectacled entrepreneur refused to be cowed and began to fight the two men.

He had been in the ground-floor flat for half an hour without knowing that the two thieves, said to be in their 20s, black and muscular, were also there. They grabbed him as he tried to leave. Minutes earlier a woman companion had left the flat.

A spokesman for Mr Ryan said last night: "It is obviously very distressing to know they were inside the apartment. He thinks they could not open the safe so their last resort was to grab him. He was not going to give them the satisfaction of the combination number."

The men, who fled in an expensive car, did manage to grab £400 cash and jewellery, including a pearl necklace and diamond ring, brooch and earrings.

Detective Constable Gareth John, who is leading the investigation, said: "He put up quite a struggle and the men left with their tails somewhat between their legs. They were *young and very fit, but Mr* Ryan is pretty fit too. I think they must have been surprised at the fight he put up."

Mr Ryan refused hospital treatment despite injuries to his face and ribs, and within hours had flown to Ireland to attend a charity function.

Back in his Dublin office yesterday, Mr Ryan, who is



Ryan: refused to be intimidated by raiders

said to have a fortune in excess of £110 million, was reluctant to say more about his ordeal. A spokesman said: "He feels a bit embarrassed, and angry at being assaulted in his own home. He started to fight them off because he felt so indignant. He is not a great fitness fanatic but he is a very healthy man for his age and is still an active farmer among his many other interests. He certainly would not care to be portrayed as some intrepid 'have-a-go hero', more a man trying to defend his home."

Mr Ryan, the oldest of four sons of a Tipperary train driver, founded GPA — the world's largest aircraft leasing company — in 1975 with a £50,000 stake. GPA ran into trouble after an attempt to float the group and Mr Ryan severed his links in 1994 to concentrate on his cut-price airline, Ryanair, which, after amassing sizeable debts, has become the market leader on the Irish Sea routes.

Police last night said they were investigating whether the description of Mr Ryan's assailants matched those responsible for other "Quality Street" attacks. Their previous victims have included Michael Green, the Carlton TV chief, Lord Mishcon, the lawyer, and Bernie Ecclestone, the Formula One magnate.

Postal bride returns to sender

BY PETER FOSTER

THE marriage of a former gas board chairman and a Thai woman 53 years his junior appeared to be at an end yesterday just six days after the couple began their new life together in Britain.

Brian Clegg, 76, was married to Banjit Sawaengdee, 23, in Bangkok in October after being introduced by a "mail order" dating agency. The former chairman of Northern Gas said he hoped the liaison would provide a climactic closing chapter to his life after two failed marriages.

However, last night Mr Clegg was sitting alone in his penthouse flat in Poole, Dorset, after his wife, known to him by the nickname Joom, decided to leave. He blamed the break-up on his wife's demands for money, allegedly including £5,000 to buy her aunt a home in Thailand and an allowance for several poverty-stricken relatives. But Charles Black, whose company, Siam Introductions, arranged the marriage, said a newspaper deal arranged by Mr Clegg had strained the marriage to breaking point.



Banjit Sawaengdee, 23, and her husband Brian Clegg, 76: "I feel thoroughly stitched up," he said

Mr Black said: "The poor girl was a prisoner in the house, so to speak, and couldn't go out because other newspapers were waiting outside. She was a simple girl. She really wanted to come over and be a housewife, but that wasn't to be."

Ms Sawaengdee stands to lose financially if she divorces Mr Clegg and returns to her family in Thailand. According to Mr Black she had been left a house worth £100,000 in Mr Clegg's will and a pension worth £27,000 a year.

A forlorn Mr Clegg said: "I feel thoroughly stitched up. I should have realised what was going on because she started making some outrageous financial demands before she even came over here. But I had a word with the agency and she was told to get back in her box a bit. ... Right from the start she wanted me to spend, spend, spend."

"I can either sit around thinking that I am an old man and my life is all behind me, or I can think of myself as a bachelor and get stuck in there. I've already had a woman from Ghana ring me up and offer her services as a replacement, so I have asked her to come and have a drink and see how we get on."



'Unsafe' meat can be imported but not sold

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE unilateral ban on the sale of imported beef and sheep meat which has not been subjected to the same safeguards as British meat will take effect from January.

Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister, said foreign meat could be sold in Britain only if it had come from abattoirs that had removed the brain, eyes, tonsils and spinal cord from the carcasses of cattle, sheep and goats.

These organs are known as "specified risk materials" because they have been identified as being capable of harbouring BSE infection. The requirement to remove them would apply only to animals over the age of 12 months, although the spleen of sheep and goats of any age would also have to be taken out.

Dr Cunningham announced the ban after the European Union's standing veterinary committee voted yesterday to postpone the introduction of abattoir controls throughout Europe. These had been due to come into force at the start of next year. Most EU states see no reason why they should be subject to the same restrictions as Britain.

Last year Britain imported 150,000 tonnes of beef worth £363 million from all sources, of which 93,100 tonnes came from the European Union, according to the Meat and Livestock Commission.

It was not clear last night what impact Dr Cunningham's action would have. The biggest EU exporter of beef to Britain last year was Ireland, which sent 54,600 tonnes, but the Dublin Department of Agriculture said last night that Ireland already complied with British requirements.

The European Commission said that two other leading exporters to Britain, Holland (17,300 tonnes) and France (11,700 tonnes), were also thought to comply. But Germany (5,330 tonnes) does not have such safeguards and says it sees no reason why it should be subject to the same restraints as Britain.

The Ministry of Agriculture said last night that all non-EU suppliers, with the exception only of New Zealand and Australia, would have to comply with the new regulations if their meat was to be marketable in Britain. This is apparently because only Australia and New Zealand are considered to pose no threat from either BSE or scrapie, the related sheep disease. In 1996 Britain imported 9,200 tonnes of beef from Australia, 8,200 tonnes from Uruguay, 7,600 tonnes from Argentina, 6,900 tonnes from Botswana, 6,400 tonnes from Namibia, 5,200 tonnes from Zimbabwe, 4,000 tonnes from Brazil, 3,900 tonnes from New Zealand and 2,800 tonnes from the United States. Nearly all Britain's imports of sheep meat come from Australia and New Zealand, which are exempt.

Dr Cunningham admitted yesterday that he could not stop foreign meat being imported, but officials said he had the power to ban its sale if it did not meet British requirements. "I cannot ban imports of beef — though I think farmers would like me to — but that would be a matter that would have me straight into the European Court," he said on BBC Radio 4's *World at One* programme. "But I can insist that it can only come in if it has had the specified risk materials removed and been treated the same as British beef."

TIM CUFF



Farmers at a rally at Westpoint exhibition centre near Exeter. They want £980 million compensation for the damaging effects of a strong pound

WHAT'S IN AND WHAT'S OUT: A GUIDE TO THE NEW FOOD SAFETY LAW ON BEEF THAT TOOK EFFECT AT MIDNIGHT

The ban on beef on the bone, which took effect at midnight, will be enforced under Section 16 of the Food Safety Act 1990. These are its main provisions:

■ Any butcher, shop, hotel, restaurant or caterer that sells cattle bones, or bone marrow, or cuts of beef containing bone direct to the "ultimate consumer" is committing a criminal offence.

■ Offenders run the risk of a fine of up to £5,000 and/or up to six months' imprisonment if convicted in a magistrate's court, or up to two years in prison and/or an unlimited fine in a Crown Court.

■ The ban applies to cattle bone and beef on the bone from any source at home or abroad. Local authority environmental health and trading standards officers will be required to enforce it.

■ Beef on the bone is still legal from cattle under six months old, but few animals are ready for slaughter before that age.

■ The main outlawed cuts are ribs of beef (baron of beef, forerib, wing rib, flat rib, flank and brisket), T-bone steak and oxtail. Up to now these have accounted for 30,000 tonnes, or 5 per cent, of beef sales a year, a trade worth £150 million.

■ Butchers and restaurants are still allowed to have beef carcasses on their premises provided they take the meat off the bone before sale to their customers. This means, for example, that the fillets and sirloins contained within a T-bone steak can still be sold once cut from the bone.

■ Restaurants are prohibited from using any cattle bones or bone marrow in the preparation of food for their customers.

■ Manufacturers of soups, broths, bouillons, stocks cubes and gravy granules cannot use bone of British origin as a raw material but may use imported bones, even from EU countries that have had cases of BSE. The level of BSE in these countries is not considered high enough to warrant a ban.

■ Butchers are banned from selling cattle bones direct to customers to feed to their dogs, but may sell the bones to pet feed manufacturers to be included in dog and cat food.

Lamb sheepish as bone test goes all to pot

■ In the best tradition of food writers, Robin Young cried 'Foul!' when he accepted the Meat and Livestock Commission's challenge to taste the difference — and lost

I FACED the beef bone challenge yesterday, and won. Unfortunately, it was for all the wrong reasons.

The Meat and Livestock Commission's grandly titled Sensory Evaluation Department had arranged a controlled test to determine whether I could tell beef cooked off the bone from that cooked with the bone in.

Accepted wisdom among chefs, cooks and cookery writers is that the bone, which government regulations ban from today, makes beef juicier and more flavoursome. That view has had the support of, among many others, Delia Smith, Gary Rhodes, the Two Fat Ladies and our own *Times* Cook, Frances Bissell.

The meat industry's Sensory Evaluation Department was out to dispel that impression yesterday. "We want to reassure customers that they are losing nothing by way of flavour or cooking quality," said the British meat consumer marketing manager, whose name just happens to be Chris Lamb.

"Our tests have shown that consumers cannot tell the difference between beef cooked on the bone and boneless joints."

So now, the big question was: could I? For the trial, at the Good Housekeeping Institute in West London, they had taken foreribs of beef, cut joints in half and boned one half while leaving the bone in the other.

The Good Housekeeping Institute's cook had then cooked the bone-in and boneless halves in the same oven in exactly the same way, before carving and serving on three plates, two from one half of the joint and one from the other. I had to pick the odd one out.

I told Mr Lamb I expected to be able to distinguish the beef cooked on the bone because it would be juicier and probably taste better.

When the three samples arrived, one was immediately distinguishable as the odd one out at very first glance. Without even bothering to taste, I said that the two samples to the right were obviously from the same joint, and that on the left different.

Correct. That on the left was obviously drier. Fine — but that happened to be the beef cooked on the bone. Oh dear.

The explanation, I think, is that the Good Housekeeping Institute had cooked the joints for the same amount of *time per pound*. Overall cooking times were, therefore, shorter for boned joints. Result? The bone-in beef was overcooked, and therefore did not taste as good as it should, while the boneless beef was just about right.

Do I still think consumers are losing something by losing their bone? Yes I do. Beef cooked properly on the bone definitely does taste better.

Sadly, all the test proved was that neither the Meat and Livestock Commission nor the Good Housekeeping Institute knows how to cook beef on the bone, the traditional British joint that from today is a thing of the past.

My conclusion is supported by Frances Bissell. "Of course, the beef on the bone should not be cooked longer," she said. "The bone is not part of the meat, but is a good conductor of heat. It helps the beef cook more quickly." Sorry, Mr Lamb. I hope you are feeling a little sheepish.

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Clark says spoof diary harms his good name

BY EMMA WILKINS

THE reputation of Alan Clark, the Conservative MP, diarist, and self-confessed philanderer, was damaged by a series of newspaper articles that appeared under his name but were written by a journalist, the High Court in London was told yesterday.

Mr Clark, who is seeking damages and an injunction preventing the *Evening Standard* from further publication of "Alan Clark's Secret Political Diary" fears that readers do not realise the true author is Peter Bradshaw, a staff writer on the newspaper.

Although Mr Bradshaw's name appears in bold type at the top of the weekly articles, Mr Clark's photograph is prominently displayed. The accounts are written in the first person and refer to places that Mr Clark mentions in his best-selling 1993 diaries, including his homes in the Albany, Piccadilly, and Saltwood Castle in Kent.

"What greater damage could there be to an author than to present another man's words as his?" said Geoffrey Hobbs, QC, for Mr Clark.

Mr Clark was not sueing for defamation or seeking to prevent the newspaper publishing clear "spoofs", Mr Hobbs said. "His sole ambition is to prevent the *Evening Standard* from publishing parodies without making it clear that he is not the author," he said.



Hastings: refused to drop the spoof diary

The court was told that the first spoof article was published soon after Mr Clark won the Conservative nomination for the seat of Kensington and Chelsea in January.

Shortly afterwards Max Hastings, editor of the *Evening Standard*, had offered Mr Clark £60,000 to write a weekly diary for the newspaper, commenting on current affairs. Mr Clark had refused the offer, which was substantially less than he was receiving for his column in the *News of the World*.

A few weeks after Mr Clark's rejection a second parody appeared under the heading "Alan Clark's Secret Election Diary", Mr Justice Lightman was told. The title of the spoof articles was changed after the general election. During conversations in April and May, including one chance meeting at the Chelsea Flower Show, Mr Clark asked Mr Hastings to make the true authorship clear. But Mr Hastings had refused, claiming that the articles were "the most popular thing in the paper".

Mr Bradshaw's efforts were even praised by Clive James, the television presenter and satirist, who wrote in a note to Mr Bradshaw that he was "lost in admiration".

The court was told that *Evening Standard* journalists gave information about Mr Clark's movements to Mr Bradshaw as background for the diary. "Generally the tone is whimsical," Mr Hobbs said. "Some parts are quite ludicrous in order to create a humourous effect. Even so, there's no reason why it couldn't have been written by Alan Clark."

But Peter Prescott, QC, for the *Evening Standard*, asked numerous witnesses whether they believed that stories in the spoof diary could possibly have been written by the real Mr Clark. In one extract, the diary told of the exuberant reaction of women supporters on hearing that Mr Clark was their new MP. "Have you ever laboured under the impression that the ladies at his constituency adoption meeting cheered and flung their undergarments at him?" Mr Prescott asked Graham Halkerston, a witness for Mr Clark. Mr Halkerston, a barrister, replied: "I wouldn't be surprised at the blue-rinse brigade at Kensington and Chelsea Conservative Party. They adore him. He's their ideal candidate."

In a further spoof Mr Clark apparently confided to his readers that he had enjoyed a drunken lunch at Wiltons (a fashionable restaurant in his constituency), forgotten to go to a lecture at the Royal United Services Institute where he was to be a guest speaker, and given a "lying" excuse.

Was it really credible, Mr Prescott asked, that Mr Clark should admit to these antics in the *Evening Standard* in the middle of a general election campaign? Mr Halkerston said he could quite imagine Mr Clark, or anyone else, having a drunken lunch but acknowledged that the other matters were "rather odd".

Peter Luff, the Tory MP for Mid Worcestershire, said that he had read two diaries before realising they were spoofs. In one diary the writer had said that Anne Widdecombe, then Prisons Minister, had had her neck bolts airbrushed out of her election photographs.

The case continues.

MARK ST GEORGE



Alan Clark leaving the High Court yesterday. He rejected a £60,000 offer to write a diary in the *Evening Standard*

Briton in court over mountain bus crash

FROM JEAN-PIERRE BENOIT IN ALBERTVILLE

A FRENCH prosecutor yesterday demanded a two-month suspended sentence and 11,000 franc (£1,100) fine for the British driver of a tour bus which crashed in the Alps, killing three Bolton teenagers last July.

The driver, James Shaw, appeared in court at Albertville, in the Savoie, yesterday to face manslaughter charges in connection with the crash, in which the three died and 25 others were injured, when the hired French bus plunged 60 ft from a mountain road into a ravine at Moutiers.

He also faces charges of involuntary manslaughter and failure to control the vehicle. A verdict will be delivered on January 5.

Mr Shaw, of Droylsden, Manchester, told the court through an interpreter: "As far as I am concerned I was driving safely. It was a winding road, narrow in places. The surface was in bad condition."

Jean-Pierre Beroud, the presiding judge, said the road had recently been resurfaced. "It seems to me there was a bump or a hole," replied Mr Shaw. Asked if the coach had toppled over towards the right, he said: "Possibly. I tried to put it back on the road."

Nicola Moore, 16, Keith Riddings, 14, and Robert Boardman, 15, died in the crash.

Thief who won Iron Cross dies

BY PHILIP DELVES BROUGHTON

A SAFECRACKER turned double agent who was awarded the Iron Cross by Hitler while spying for the British has died aged 83.

Eddie Chapman was in prison in Jersey in 1940 when the Channel Islands were invaded by the Germans. The Germans took up Chapman's offer to spy for them, but when he was parachuted into Britain he got word to Scotland Yard about what had happened, and was duly asked by MI5 to act as a double agent under the codename Zig Zag.

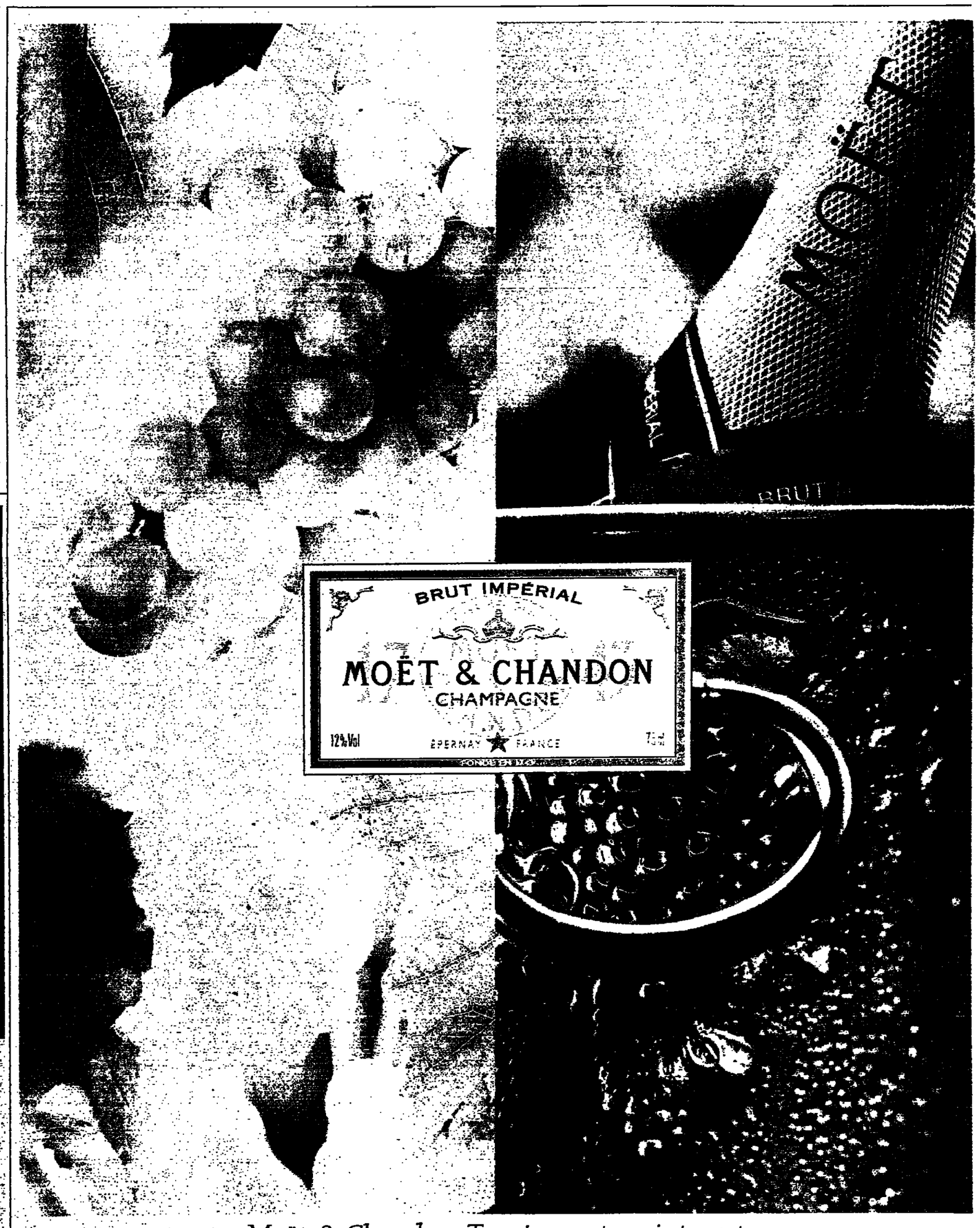
When he was parachuted into Britain for the second time, he landed on concrete, knocking out all his teeth and damaging his back. For his efforts on behalf of Germany, he was awarded the Iron Cross in 1944.

Towards the end of the war, Chapman's counter-intelligence work helped to misdirect many V1 and V2 bombs away from central London. The British pardoned him of all the crimes he committed before the war.

His wartime exploits, which included the attempted sabotage of British ships in Lisbon with explosives disguised as lumps of coal, were used as the basis for the 1967 film *Triple Cross* in which Chapman was played by Christopher Plummer, alongside Yul Brynner.

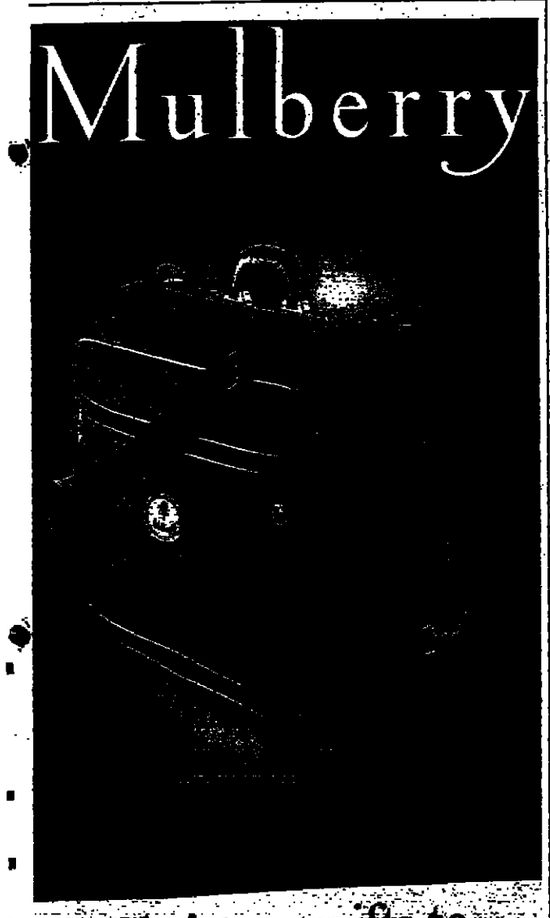
After the war, Chapman lived in some style in Spain and Amersham, Buckinghamshire. He was also a regular at the Star Tavern in Belgravia, whose patrons came from both sides of the tracks.

Chapman, who was married with a daughter and four grandchildren, will be buried in a private ceremony. The funeral will be held this Thursday in Amersham.



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Sergeant wins his job back by a nose

BY MICHAEL EVANS

AN ARMY sergeant who was dismissed from the service in disgrace after biting the nose of a fellow non-commissioned officer at a night club in Nairobi, Kenya, won his career back yesterday after a High Court ruling.

Sergeant Colin Murray, of the 1st Royal School of Military Engineering Regiment (1 RSME) at Chatham, in Kent, was sentenced to six months' imprisonment, reduced to the ranks and dismissed from the Army at a court martial last year.

He had pleaded guilty to unlawful wounding, but claimed his action was the result of taking an anti-malarial drug, mefloquine.

Despite an unblemished Army career, Sergeant *Murray's defence was not* accepted. However, Lord Bingham, the Lord Chief Justice, sitting with Mr Justice Hooper, yesterday allowed Sergeant Murray's appeal and quashed the sentence after ruling that the court martial had unfairly failed to give reasons for this.

A spokesman for the Army said Sergeant Murray, 38, would have his rank reinstated, would be entitled to a full pension, back pay and could return to his job immediately.

Search for Fiat in Diana crash is abandoned

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE French magistrate leading the investigation into the death of Diana, Princess of Wales is preparing to wind up his inquiry after a huge, costly *and fruitless search for a white* Fiat Uno that may have collided with the Princess's car moments before the accident.

Judge Hervé Stéphan may declare the investigation complete and close the case as early as next month, according to a report yesterday in the French magazine *Voici*. Paint scrapes apparently left by a Fiat Uno were discovered on the body of the wrecked Mercedes, but investigators believe there is little hope of tracing the missing car — a monumental task that could *involve more* than 40,000 vehicle checks in the Paris region alone and which, even if successful, would be unlikely to result in a prosecution.

The cost of the investigation — over £200,000 — has been criticised, and judicial sources say that Judge Stéphan wants to avoid further expenditure of time and effort by the elite Brigade Criminelle.

Nine photographers and a motorcycle driver may still face manslaughter charges for pursuing the Mercedes carrying the Princess and her friend *Dodi Fayed on the night of the* tragedy, but investigators are



Stéphan: may end inquiry next month

increasingly convinced that the crash was a routine traffic accident, primarily caused by drunk-driving and excessive speed. Blood tests showed that Henri Paul, the chauffeur who also died at the crash scene, was well over the alcohol limit for driving.

A civil suit could still be brought by the families of the accident victims against the Ritz hotel, M Paul's employers. The Paris Ritz is owned by Mohamed Al Fayed, whose son Dodi was killed in the crash.

Michael Cole, Mr Al Fayed's spokesman, said that Mr Al Fayed wanted the investigation "to move as rapidly as possible to a conclusion" but that the failure of the French police to find the missing Fiat left "a big question mark" over the tragedy. "Instead of trying to find the car, perhaps they should be finding out why it has been secreted, disappeared, and who would have had an interest in so doing."

*Sources close to the investi*gation originally suggested that the investigation would last well into next year, but tracking down the missing Fiat Uno, which was made between 1983 and 1989 and offered the only strong lead in the case, has been an enormous and possibly futile task.

Police began *interviewing* Fiat Uno drivers in the Paris region on November 4, with 20 officers working full-time. Owners were asked to account for the whereabouts of their cars on the night of the crash, in August; those unable to provide convincing responses had their cars examined for evidence of collision damage or respraying. Just 15 cars have been forensically examined to date.

Police investigators began their inquiries with registered Fiat owners in the west of *Paris, simply on the basis that* the car was apparently heading in that direction out of the Place de l'Alma underpass.

Many owners, having moved or sold their cars, failed to respond to the police summons. Further complicating the task of police, registration documents in France do not always note the colour of cars.

Critics have complained that the Brigade Criminelle would be better deployed tracking down a serial killer at large in eastern Paris.

Mr Cole did not rule out the possibility of a civil action *against the Ritz, but added* that any civil suit would be likely to invoke the responsibility of the hotel management, rather than Mr Al Fayed, who he said was simply a "shareholder" in the Ritz.

Police scientists are still working on the forensic examination of the wrecked Mercedes. Trevor Rees-Jones, the Princess's bodyguard and sole survivor of the crash, is also expected to be interviewed again by investigators.

As soon as the French investigation is closed, the British coroner can begin his *own report into the death of* the Princess and of Mr Fayed.



JEROME DELAY

French police at the scene of the crash in which Diana, Princess of Wales and her friend Dodi Fayed died

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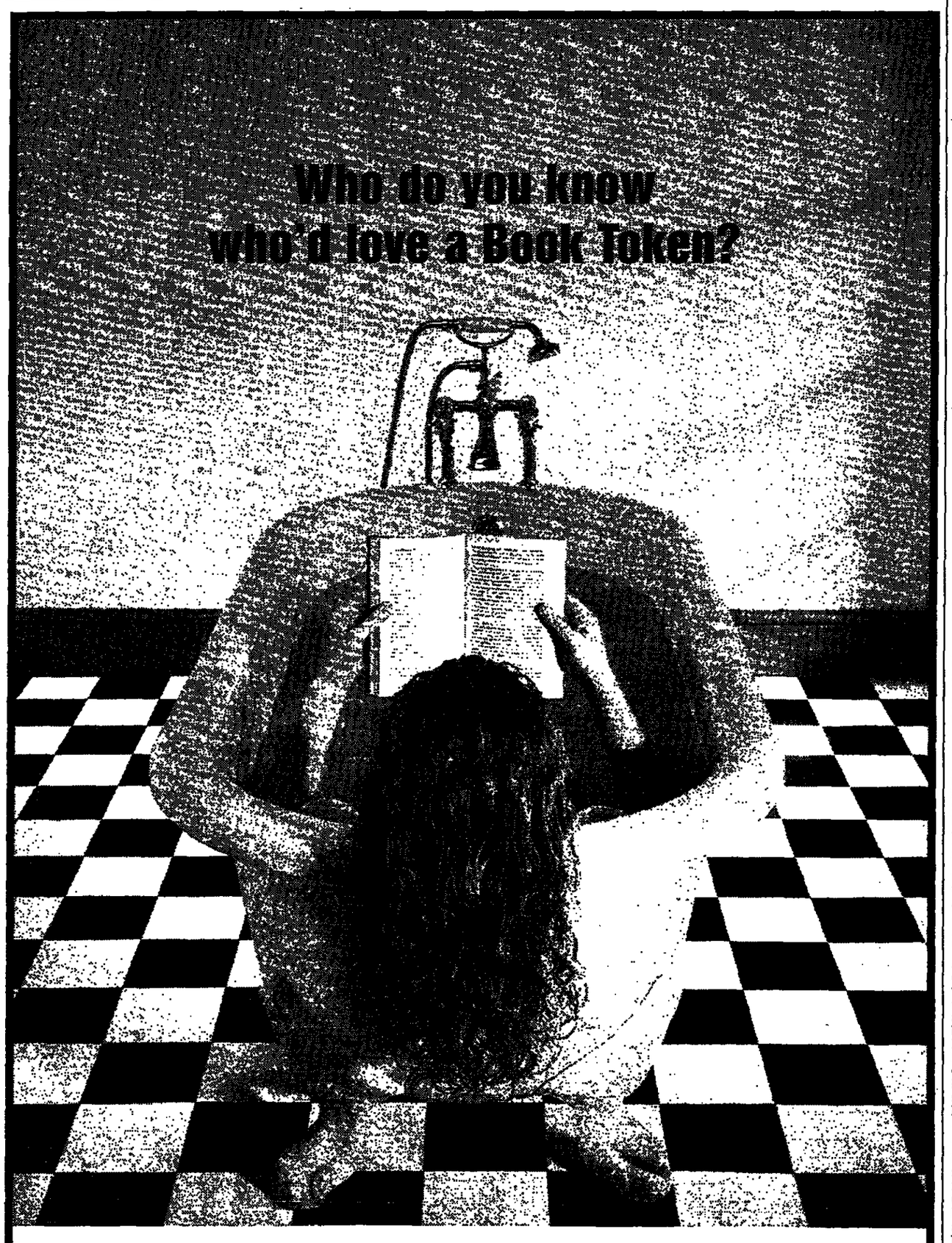
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Man being watched is jailed for murder

The Greater Manchester Police force has defended its actions after a convicted paedophile was convicted of murdering his homosexual lover in a house undercover officers were watching.

Mikhail Gallatinov, 23, was jailed for life at Manchester Crown Court for strangling Adrian Kaminsky, 28, at his home in Moston, Manchester. Gallatinov thwarted police efforts to *prevent the murder by strangling* his victim on the day before he told the undercover officer he would do so. Detective Superintendent Ron Gaffey said: "We can only act on what information is available to us."

Midweek trap

The midweek lottery traps people into playing even though they do not want to. The researchers, from Northumbria University, found the midweek event excited only 18 *per cent of 485 weekend players*. However, nearly all intended playing on Wednesday because they would be upset if their numbers came up and they did not have a ticket.

Pavarotti cancels

Flu forced Luciano Pavarotti to pull out of an appearance in Verdi's *Requiem* at the Symphony Hall in Birmingham last night and a concert *with the Philharmonia at the* Royal Festival Hall in London tomorrow. A spokesman said he had been advised not to travel. Roberto Alagna is flying in from Milan to take his place.

Shower power

A crackdown on "super power showers", which use more water than a bath, is being urged by the Water Regulations Advisory Committee to help reduce consumption in homes after recent droughts. It wants new rules to empower water companies to withhold consent to fit such showers unless the household is put on a water meter.

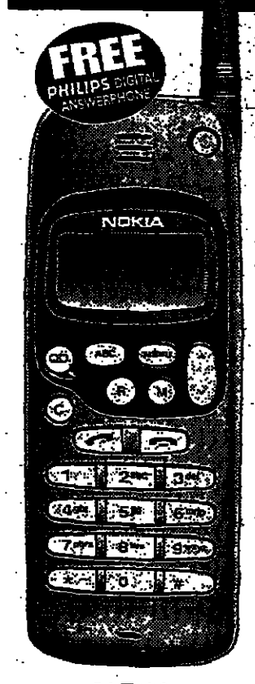
Return journey

Fifty passengers are to get refunds after their train failed to climb Lickey Bank, the longest rail incline in Britain. After trying for 90 minutes, it had to roll gently back to Worcester, where Central Trains were able to divert it onto a more level route. Central Trains blamed *leaves which had pressed into* a paste.

CORRECTION

The Adam Smith Institute does not have charitable status, contrary to an article of December 12.

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Jail for killers of couple who escaped Stalin's death camps

BY PAUL WHITTAKER

AN ELDERLY Polish couple who fled to Britain as refugees after surviving the horrors of Stalin's death camps were murdered almost 50 years later by their fellow countrymen.

Joseph Ploch, 86, and his wife Kornela, 81, were tortured and left to die after three intruders broke into their home in Fulham, southwest London, last June.

Mrs Ploch, who had her wedding and engagement rings ripped from her fingers during the attack, was kicked in the face while lying on the floor downstairs and her husband suffocated to death upstairs as the gang tried to force them to reveal the whereabouts of a secret £40,000 cash hoard. The couple, who had been married for 60 years, were bound hand and foot with masking tape. Their bodies lay undiscovered for almost a week.

Their killers, Robert and Mariusz Maczka — two Polish brothers who entered Britain on student visas — have been jailed for life for the brutal murders. Yesterday at the Old Bailey a third member of the gang, Rafal Gutarewicz, 24, was sentenced to 11 years in jail for robbery.

The three men, who came to England from Poland in the summer of 1995, breached their conditions of entry by overstaying and working in the hotel and catering trade.

The court heard that on the way to England the brothers had selected elderly victims in Holland to fund their stay in the West.

The day of the killings wasn't the first time the couple had met the gang. On an earlier visit the men had cased the Ploch's £400,000 home, posing as journalists researching a story on the couple's lives.

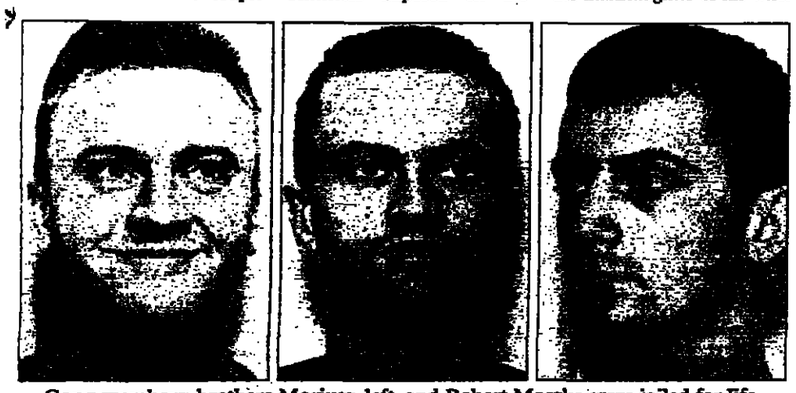
The Recorder of London, Sir Lawrence Verney QC, yesterday lifted reporting restrictions concerning the life sentences imposed on the brothers in June this year. The case could not be reported until after Gutarewicz's retrial on the robbery charge.

Robert Maczka, 20, pleaded guilty to both murders and robbery. His 22-year-old epileptic brother, who admitted only robbery, was found guilty of the murder of Mr Ploch and the manslaughter of his wife.

ENTERPRISE NEWS



Joseph and Kornela Ploch were tortured and left to die at their £400,000 London home by the three-man gang



Gang members: brothers Mariusz, left, and Robert Maczka were jailed for life. Rafal Gutarewicz, right, was sentenced to 11 years at the Old Bailey yesterday

Gutarewicz, who was seen wearing Mr Ploch's clothing after the attack, was cleared of murdering the pair in the June trial but faced a retrial this month for robbery and the manslaughter of Mrs Ploch. He was cleared of the manslaughter charge on the judge's directions but found guilty of robbery.

In June the Common Serjeant of London, Judge Neil Denison, QC, told the brothers: "This was a cold-blooded murder of an old and infirm couple. You showed them no mercy, having assaulted them and in the case of Mrs Ploch with great ferocity. You left them tied by the hands and feet to die without even making a call for an ambulance."

A senior policeman who investigated the murders said the case highlighted the problem of criminal elements slipping into Britain after the break-up of the Soviet Bloc.

Detective Inspector Anthony Hulbert, who described the crime as a brutal and cowardly attack, said: "Increasingly people from the former Warsaw Pact countries are coming here on visitors' passports and student passes. One minute they were under communist rule and then all of a sudden they find themselves in the West and everything they have seen on TV is open to them. It is a temptation. They want to get it and grab it."

The officer said it was very easy to get a job in the catering and hotel trade in Britain with no questions asked. He said this was where they met and formed their plan.

The three were living with a large group of their fellow countrymen in a flat at Lannoy Point, in Fulham, just two miles from the Ploch's large house.

During the raid, the gang found £10,000 in cash but missed a further £30,000 hidden in the cellar. They also stole clothing before calling a minicab to take them away.

Mr Ploch was a former history professor and his wife an actress. He worked in Britain as a draughtsman.

Yard told to act on cost of sick leave

BY STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

SCOTLAND YARD has been urged to review its sick-pay and pensions systems after it emerged that sickness and injury cost the Metropolitan Police £72 million last year.

A National Audit Office study showed that 400,000 working days were lost last year because of sick leave, and on any one day about 1,500 officers out of the Metropolitan force of 27,000 were absent. The report urges the Yard to examine how its sick-pay system works, and questions its housekeeping. Long-term sickness and medical retirements have been rising throughout the 1990s although injuries on duty have fallen. Every day's reduction in the average sickness rate of 14.4 days a year — compared with a national average of eight days — would save the force another £6.3 million.

The current system, says the report, might encourage officers to stay off work for long periods in the hope of eventually getting medical retirement with an enhanced pension. It could also be used by those trying to avoid disciplinary hearings, a problem that the Yard has acknowledged to MPs in hearings on police complaints and discipline.

A quarter of all officers on sick leave were absent for longer than six months, and the figure is now higher than at any time in the past three years. Stress and spinal and neck injuries account for 38 per cent of illnesses.

At the end of the financial year, 302 officers had been off work longer than six months and were still receiving full pay. Since 1995 chief constables have been able to reduce sick pay if an officer is away longer than six months; 1,000 officers have taken long-term sick leave since 1995, and 90 per cent have continued to get full pay after six months. The rules for civilian staff are tougher; 90 per cent of the staff on sick leave for long periods have had their pay cut.

Since 1991-92 the number of officers leaving on sickness grounds has doubled. The NAO says: "Early retirement on medical grounds is financially advantageous to officers and correspondingly costly to forces. The arrangements provide incentives to officers to take long-term sick leave."

Scientists trap modest spider in web of love

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

NUMBERS of Britain's most colourful spider have quadrupled to 120 since scientists set up a "dating agency" for the last 30 survivors.

For 60 years the jewel-like ladybird spider was believed to be extinct in this country until a small colony was found in Dorset in the 1980s.

Joy was shortlived, however, when it was realised that the colony, which was confined to a site the size of a tennis court, was rapidly becoming even smaller.

Part of the problem was the arachnid's less than amorous mating habits. The male of the species (*Eresus Cinnaberinus*) gets the urge to reproduce only once a year, and even then does not journey far in search of romance. He will steal along several yards of silk-lined tunnel and, if the search ends unrequited, as it often does, he dies. Even if successful, mating has tragic consequences. For once the female's eggs have hatched, her final maternal sacrifice is to be eaten by her brood.

The future looked black for the ladybird spider until scientists began tracking down the males and immediately pairing them off with members of the opposite sex.

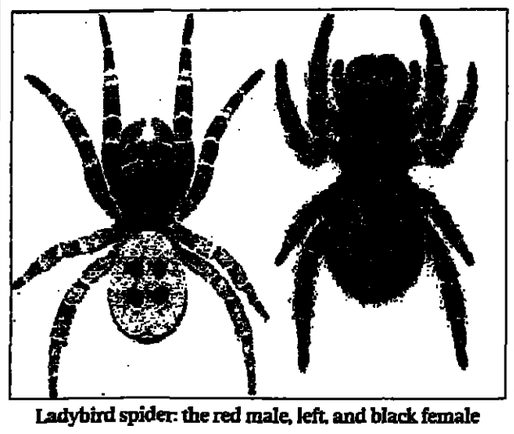
English Nature's spider expert, Dr Roger Key, said yesterday: "It is very like a dating agency. With so few individuals, we needed to make sure even the females on the edge of the colony succeeded in mating.

"It isn't a matter of them being shy or unwilling. There are just so few of them the female may sit in her burrow waiting for a boyfriend and have no luck. We maximise her chances of finding love."

The ladybird spider was once common in the West Country and the Isle of Wight. But huge areas of the dry heathland it favours have been ploughed up or ruined by invading rhododendron bushes. By 1920 the spider was thought to be extinct in Britain. But in the 1980s the tiny colony was found.

The species takes its name from the male's brilliant blood-red body, covered in black spots, while the elusive female is plain black. Both sexes live alone in silk-lined burrows with delicate tripwires radiating out to catch insects several times larger than themselves.

Dr Key said: "This is a gorgeous creature and very elegant in movement. The ladybird spider has the stealthy, purposeful walk of a bird-eating spider instead of the scuttling movement of house spiders."



Ladybird spider: the red male, left, and black female

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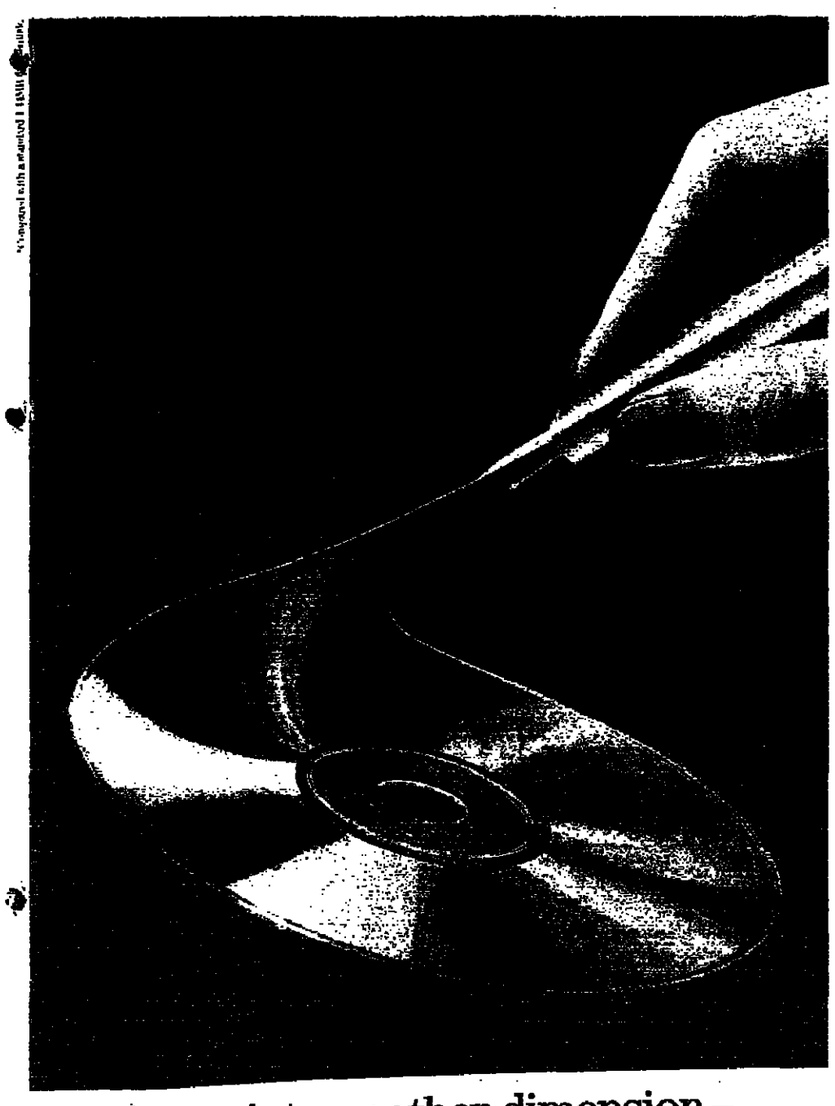
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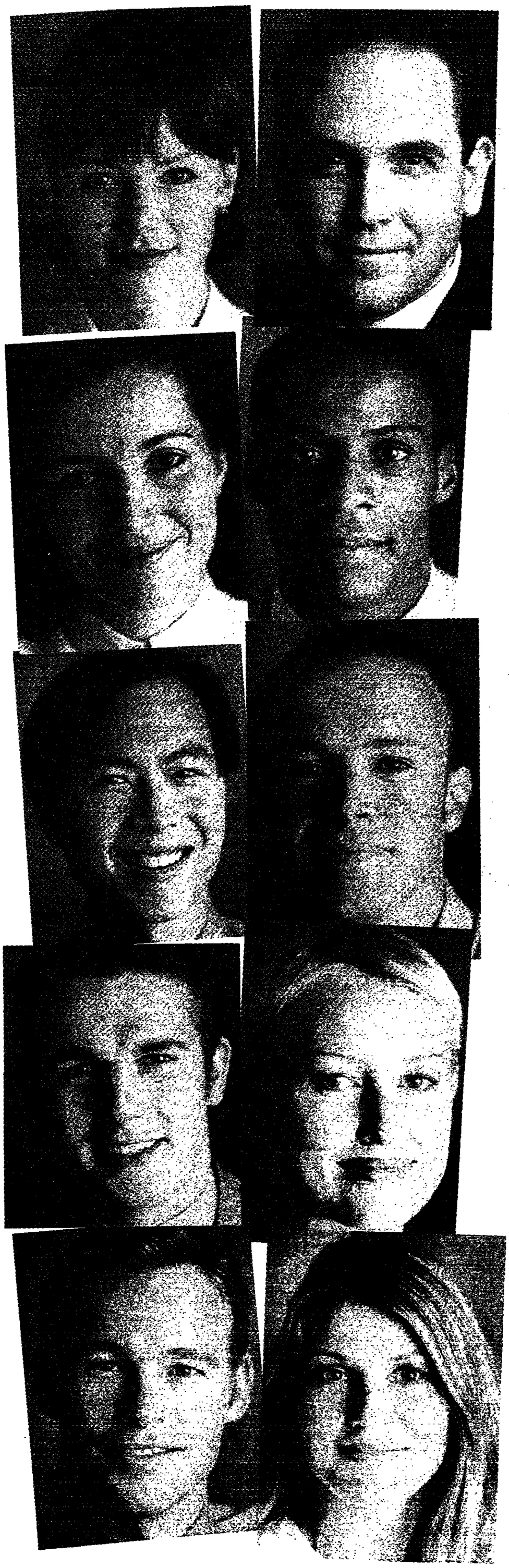
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Angus Colville

Lost air ticket led to murder

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

A SCOTTISH aristocrat was stabbed to death as he went to get a replacement for a lost airline ticket while on a yachting holiday off Guatemala, Central America, an inquest was told yesterday.

Angus Colville, 58, brother of Viscount Colville of Culross, QC, had intended to spend the last few days walking in the mountains, but instead had to go to Guatemala City to pick up a new ticket.

The inquest at Tavistock, Devon, where he was a partner in a firm of chartered surveyors, was told that Mr Colville was attacked outside a sports stadium.

Julie Johnson, British vice-consul in Guatemala, said in a statement that the only known witness to the murder had told police Mr Colville had been beaten by two men before he was killed. A waist bag with money and documents was taken but the killers left a watch and a ring.

Timothy Trafford, who owned the yacht on which Mr Colville had been staying, said his friend had been advised to take taxis in unsafe areas.

A verdict of unlawful killing was recorded.

Damning report condemns Met's Lawrence inquiry

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

SCOTLAND YARD'S inquiry into the murder of Stephen Lawrence, the black teenager, was flawed by "significant weaknesses, omissions and lost opportunities" according to a scathing report published by the Police Complaints Authority yesterday.

The report was drawn up for Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, based on the findings of an inquiry by Kent police after Mr Lawrence's parents complained about the way the case was handled. Mr Lawrence, 18, was stabbed by a gang of white youths in April 1993 as he waited for a bus in Eltham, South London. Nobody has been convicted.

Concentrating much of its criticism on Scotland Yard's first inquiry, the report paints a picture of an investigation during which senior officers were divided over who should be in charge, arrests were rushed, possible leads were ignored and detectives wrongly claimed they were hampered by lack of help from the public. When Scotland Yard reviewed the investigation the errors were not identified. Subsequent investigations were also flawed.

For a force that prides itself on the way it handles murder cases the report will make doleful reading. At least one senior officer admitted privately that the report would have repercussions for all forces.

The authority's report demolishes Scotland Yard's claims that attempts to track down Mr Lawrence's killers were hampered by a "wall of silence" by local people. In fact there was "considerable evidence" that the people of Eltham had come forward, sometimes reluctantly, with valuable information about five white youths who were subsequently arrested for the killing.

The report said: "The early information was vital. It could only have come from sources close to the suspects since street rumour and gossip would not have had time to develop." The murder inquiry should have focused on this but there were numerous weaknesses in this area that have been identified by the complaint investigation."

Four days after the murder, there were 20 pieces of information pointing to the suspects who were eventually arrested. Some came from known sources and the anonymous sources could have been identified if appropriate action had been taken, the report said. Information acquired from a local resident available during the first weekend after the murder might have produced evidence placing the suspects at the scene on the night of the killing, but it was not followed up for three days.

Within the first few weeks of the investigation, there was information from a number of sources, including police informants, that would have corroborated information linking four of the suspects to other knife attacks.

During the initial weekend there was even evidence available to arrest two of the suspects for a separate offence of attempted murder. "This might have assisted the investigation of Stephen Lawrence's murder. However, the detective superintendents responsible did not take this opportunity, although they were aware it was available," the report said.

"Their reasons for this decision will be one of a number of professional judgments to be commented on in the investigating officers' final report."

It said that poor handling of the identification evidence might have led to one attacker being overlooked completely by the murder inquiry team. "An evaluation of the material shows that the murder investigation failed to analyse available information effectively by confusing a distinguishing feature of the suspects," the report said.

The report was also sharply critical of a surveillance operation mounted on a number of suspects and of the standard of the forensic tests carried out at the homes of those arrested.

"In general, the investigation has identified weaknesses in the leadership, direction and quality of work of the first murder investigation," it said.

Information was not dealt with systematically and lacked the necessary analytical approach to maximise its potential to produce evidence. The quality of supervision of officers was poor and assumptions were made about the standard of work being carried out that would not have withstood proper scrutiny.

The report said that arrests were rushed, ill-prepared and ill-planned. The detective superintendent in charge of the investigation was unavoidably absent at a crucial time shortly after the arrests of the main suspects, when two senior officers each insisted that the other was responsible for the conduct of the investigation.

The report said that much information might never have come to light but for the persistence of Mr Lawrence's parents, Doreen and Neville, who were bitterly critical of the police handling of the case. "Nor would the lines of inquiry now made available to the Metropolitan Police Service by the complaint investigation have been identified."

Last night Sir Paul Condon, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, said some officers may face disciplinary hearings over the investigation. Sir Paul said he accepted the main findings of the report and that there had been problems during the initial stages of the inquiry that might have affected the outcome. He said: "I have had the privilege of meeting the Lawrences twice. I have expressed my regret, my apologies that this didn't lead to a prosecution."

The report will now be passed to Sir William Macpherson of Cluny, the retired judge heading the public inquiry into the killing which is due to start taking evidence in public in February.



Stephen Lawrence, who was stabbed at a bus stop

BRUCE ADAMS/FNP



Neville and Doreen Lawrence, Stephen's parents, and his sister Cheryl Sloley outside the Home Office yesterday with the Police Complaints Authority report

NEWS IN BRIEF

Three die in fire at home for elderly

Three women were killed and two other people injured after a fire swept through a residential care home for the elderly yesterday.

Neighbours managed to pull one man clear of the burning four-bedroom bungalow and a care worker managed to escape by climbing out of a window. Both were treated for burns and smoke inhalation. Police said they believed the fire at the home in Wakefield, West Yorkshire, had started accidentally.

Squirrels claim

An allegation that two royal gardeners drowned squirrels in the grounds of Kensington Palace is being investigated by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. "It is not strictly illegal to kill them, but it has to be done humanely; certainly not by drowning," a spokesman said.

RAF near-miss

An RAF Tornado came close to a mid-air crash when the pilot failed to see a Jersey European Airways plane, with 27 passengers, until the last moment, according to the Joint Airprox (airmiss) Working Group. Both aircraft had to make emergency turns near Exeter airport on April 8.

Shops accused

Environmentalists accused the big high-street retailers of assisting the destruction of the world's forests by failing to stock Christmas cards and wrapping paper made of recycled material. Up to a quarter of a million trees will be felled to provide such goods this year, Friends of the Earth said.

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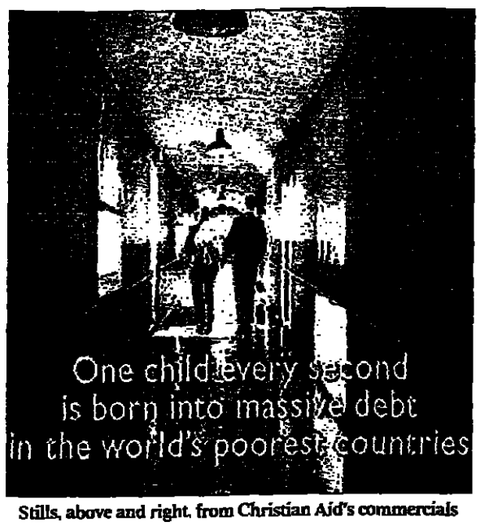
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Charity stunned by ban on TV advert



Stills, above and right, from Christian Aid's commercials



Christian Aid's campaign to relieve suffering caused by Third World debt has been ruled to be too political, reports Carol Midgley

CHRISTIAN Aid condemned as "absurd" yesterday a decision by advertising watchdogs to ban a campaign that highlights the human suffering caused by Third World debt.

The charity pledged to use other media, such as the Internet, to spread its message after the Broadcast Advertising Clearance Centre (BACC) ruled that two advertisements breached Article Ten of the Independent Television Commission's code.

The commercials, lasting 60 seconds and 30 seconds, show sinister debt collectors snatching a dummy from a baby and seizing a syringe from a nurse, with the slogan: "One child every second is born into massive debt in the world's poorest countries."

They were due to be shown in the new year ahead of the G8 industrialised nations' discussion of the debt crisis. But the BACC said the advertisements violated the ITC code that prevents commercials from showing any political partiality or being used for political ends. Andrew Simms, of Christian Aid, said it was ridiculous that it was possible to advertise nuclear power stations but not the suffering of human beings.

The advert was an attempt to illustrate the United Nations' warning that, without dramatic action to reduce Third World debt before the millennium, 21 million children could die. In Africa there were countries that were spending more paying back their debts to the West than they were on their health and education budgets.

Mr Simms said: "It's about as serious as it gets . . . and it's about as easy to get people interested in Third World debt as it is to get them to do their tax returns.

"If it's political to raise the issue of 21 million children possibly dying through the inadequate action of the powers that be, then on that level it might be. It's a shame the BACC couldn't ban Third World debt."

He said Christian Aid would now consider "every way possible" to get the advertisement shown, from broadcasting it on the Web, sending videos to campaigners to show in village and church halls, and getting it screened in the cinema.

A spokesman for the BACC said the advert had been viewed and it was considered that it violated the ITC code. "We have had no dialogue with Christian Aid," he said. Article Ten states: "No advertisement may be inserted by or on behalf of any body whose objects are wholly or mainly of a political nature and no advertisement may be directed towards any political end. No advertisement may . . . show partiality [in respect of] matters of political or industrial controversy or relating to current public policy".

Jenny Tonge, the Liberal Democrat's international development spokeswoman, said Third World debt was one of the major problems of today. "Every day, thousands of children are dying because poor countries cannot afford basic healthcare and education — because their spare cash is spent on servicing debt instead of helping their own people. This is an humanitarian issue as much as it is a political issue."

The commercial was made by freelance director Mark Brozel, the man behind the BBC's *Modern Times* documentary Mange Tout. He said he was surprised that it had been banned from television screens. "We wanted to make a provocative but rather subtle and witty ad that didn't take a sledgehammer approach to the issue," he said. "As far as I am concerned it is the situation that is controversial, not the advert." Mr Simms added that the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund and most governments agreed there was a problem, so it was not taking a controversial stance.

Earlier this year an advertising campaign by the Vegetarian Society that linked eating red meat to contracting cancer was withdrawn after the Advertising Standards Authority said it was misleading.

In 1995, the ASA criticised the NSPCC, Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth and the International Fund for Animal Welfare for "stretching the truth" in their campaigns.

NEWS IN BRIEF

NatWest £15,000 charges mistake

Graham Walker, 48, a former builder forced to sell his four-bedroom house in Walsall in 1992 as he battled to pay interest charges, has found that NatWest overcharged him by £15,000 over four years on his £160,000 loan.

After an independent audit the bank has now conceded that it overcharged Mr Walker, now a consultant engineer, of Chelmsford, Essex.

Flight delays

Holidaymakers are likely to face more flight delays next summer caused by air-traffic-control problems, it emerged, after figures showed that such delays in Europe rose by 6 per cent this summer over the previous year.

MP's damages

Labour MP Derek Foster won "substantial" damages from the *Newcastle Sunday Sun* over allegations that he had failed to give proper care and support to MP Gordon McMaster in the run-up to his death last July.

Cook's tour

Thousands gathered at Whitby, North Yorkshire, to see off a replica of Captain Cook's *Endeavour*, the ship on which he left the port in 1768 to discover Australia. The replica was returning to Fremantle after a re-fit.

M-way protest

About 20 environmental protesters attempted to disrupt yesterday's opening ceremony of the 13-mile M65 extension near Blackburn, Lancashire, attended by Home Secretary Jack Straw. There were no arrests.

Arts accolade

Sir Ernest Hall, a businessman who spent 14 years transforming a factory in Halifax into the Dean Clough arts centre, was presented with the Goodman Award by the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts.

Hit numbers

Callers phoning companies stayed on hold for 20 per cent longer if they were played music, researchers at Leicester University found. The Beatles were the most popular listening; sales messages were disliked.

Alsatian licks bite rap by joining the police

BY A CORRESPONDENT

A CASE brought against a woman for having a dangerous Alsatian was dropped — because the dog has joined the police.

Anne Dent faced the allegation after her dog, Ben, tried to bite a visitor to her home at Harworth, Nottinghamshire.

But Jane Ball, for the prosecution, told magistrates at Worksop that the case had been withdrawn "because the owner has decided to channel the dog's interests in the right direction — it's going to be a police dog".

After the hearing, Mrs Ball said: "I must admit it is an unusual situation — a first for me. The case became void because she [the defendant] no longer had the dog. It is unusual that she gave the dog to the police. To be fair, the dog was using its natural instincts. Now these instincts can be channelled to help the police."

A neighbour said: "I would not care to be alone with Ben. He could be boisterous. This seems to be the perfect solution. I hope he sinks his teeth into someone who deserves it."

☐ A security guard was bitten by his own rottweiler when he slipped down a muddy bank as he chased four trespassers. Mick Canty rang for an ambulance as he lay injured, but when the crew arrived they found they were locked out of the site, because Mr Canty had lost his keys in the fall, and had to climb over a fence. Mr Canty, 48, who works for K9 Security, based in Dudley, West Midlands, needed stitches to the bite in his arm.

Mike Brownhill, K9 Security Director, said the dog, Blue, had become confused during the pursuit. "Mick's had that dog since it was a pup and it's a pet, daft as a barrel of pop," he said. "He doesn't bear the dog any ill feelings and they are still the best of friends."

Christie killer jailed

A COCAINE addict who stabbed the brother of Olympic runner Linford Christie to death was jailed for five years at the Old Bailey yesterday.

Simon Williams, 32, unemployed and of no fixed address, pleaded guilty to the manslaughter of 34-year-old Russell Christie, who died from a single stab wound to the neck after a row over crack cocaine in Notting Hill, west London, last December.

The Recorder of London, Judge Lawrence Verney, said that, while Christie was "quite prepared for violence", he had lost his life. He sentenced Williams to four years and three months for the manslaughter of Christie, and to nine months for actual bodily harm to a London taxi driver.

Songbird Two cleared of wild bird bloodbath

BY JOHN VINCENT

FOR decades they have been been condemned without a fair trial. But now research has cleared the magpie and the sparrowhawk of devastating Britain's population of small birds.

A rise in numbers of the two predators over the past 25 years has coincided with major declines in populations of bullfinch, skylark, linnet, reed bunting, song thrush and tree sparrow.

Results of a new study, however, show that modern agricultural practices are the true culprits. Herbicides have virtually eliminated seed-bearing weeds from crops and winter stubble is rarely available.

The reappraisal of the magpie and the sparrowhawk will be announced today at the annual meeting of the British Ecological Society at the University of Warwick. It follows analysis of data involving 23 small-bird species, gathered at more than 100 sites over 25 years and involving nearly 100,000 hours of fieldwork by British Trust for Ornithology volunteers for the Joint Nature Conservation Committee. David Thomson, senior author of the report by the BTO and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, said: "There were thousands of examples and we could find no direct relationship between the increase in predators and the decline in small birds. In essence, the magpie and the sparrowhawk have been found not guilty."



The magpie: not guilty

BTO figures already published reveal that magpie and sparrowhawk populations have tripled in 25 years, coinciding with massive declines in numbers of bullfinches (down 76 per cent), linnets (52 per cent), tree sparrows (89 per cent) skylarks (58 per cent), song thrushes (73 per cent) and reed buntings (61 per cent).

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Labour rebels keep Harman under pressure

Jill Sherman on the backbench fight to protect benefits for the disabled

LABOUR MPs put Harriet Harman under further pressure yesterday over government plans to cut benefits for the disabled and single parents.

The Social Security Secretary was criticised by several of the backbenchers who voted against the Government last week over cuts in lone-parent benefit of up to £11 a week. Both Labour and Tory MPs pressed her for assurances that the Government would not impose cuts on benefits for the disabled.

The confrontations in the Commons follow the leaking of a memo confirming that the Social Security Department is drawing up plans to curb the £24 billion disability benefit bill. The front-runner is a proposal to tax or means test disability living allowance, which goes to 1.7 million people and costs the State £4.36 billion a year.

During social security questions, David Winnick, MP for Walsall North, who was part of last week's rebellion, warned Ms Harman that Labour backbenchers wanted the interests of the disabled to be protected. "In any review which is taking place, those that are disabled . . . should not find their disability allowance will be means-tested or taxed or worsened in any way," he said. "The Prime Minister has said that the disabled will be protected — that's what Labour MPs want and I'm sure that will happen."

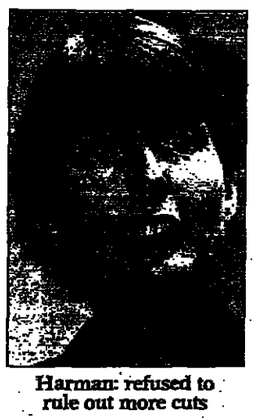
But Ms Harman refused to rule out changes to disability benefits, merely insisting that those "in need" would not be worse off.

Although the study of disability benefits is supposed to be part of the comprehensive spending review across Whitehall, Downing Street indicated that the Chancellor might announce some changes as early as his Budget in March.

Disabled people receive up to £49.50 a week to cover caring costs and up to an additional £34.60 to cover transport costs. Studies undertaken by the previous Government suggest that at least £500 million is misdirected to those who do not need the higher benefit rates.

Tomorrow MPs are expected to raise the issue with the Prime Minister when he gives his end-of-term address to the Parliamentary Labour Party. Senior backbenchers have already met ministers to warn them of the level of concern within the party.

A cross-party delegation led by Lord Ashley is also meeting Ms Harman on Thursday to protest against any measures to cut benefits for the disabled.



Harman: refused to rule out more cuts

In the Commons yesterday Ms Harman and Keith Bradley, the Social Security Minister, were also attacked by Lynne Jones, Llew Smith and Jeremy Corbyn, all of whom rebelled last week over the lone-parent benefit cuts.

Dr Jones, MP for Birmingham Selly Oak, asked if £77 a week was adequate for the lone parent of a baby or toddler. "In view of the Government's determination to press ahead with these cuts, what confidence can we have in the Prime Minister's statement this weekend that the Government will look after those in need?"

Some senior MPs are are now pressing the Government to make concessions on single-parent benefits if there is a big rebellion in the Lords. One idea is to provide single parents with help at home rather than money.

The Social Security Bill goes to the Lords on January 15 and some MPs have warned ministers that there will be another damaging rebellion, which could be backed by Tory peers, unless further help is found for single parents.

Last night Frank Field, the Welfare Reform Minister, said the benefits system was not only too expensive but was also inefficient. In a speech delivered in London, he said that any savings from the social security budget would be released for education and healthcare.

Both Mr Field and Ms Harman emphasised that welfare should should be a combination of money and services. Ministers are said to be keen to offer more help to all groups in the form of services rather than money.



Fiona Mactaggart, who has joined Chris Smith at the Department for Culture

Sacked aide replaced by wealthy new MP

BY POLLY NEWTON
POLITICAL REPORTER

ONE of Labour's wealthiest MPs is to succeed Alice Mahon, who was sacked as parliamentary aide to a Cabinet minister last week for rebelling against plans to cut benefits for single parents.

Fiona Mactaggart, who became MP for Slough in May, will take over as parliamentary private secretary to Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary. She inherited a slice of a property fortune built up by her great-grandfather. On the government side, her wealth is thought to be second only to that of Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General.

Her father was Sir Ian Auld Mactaggart, a Conservative councillor who stood twice for the party without success in parliamentary elections. She was educated at Cheltenham Ladies' College and King's College London, where she gained an MA in education.

Before becoming an MP she worked as a public relations officer for the National Council of Voluntary Organisations and for the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants. She is a former lecturer in primary education.

Ms Mactaggart, 44, is one of the first of Labour's new intake to be promoted. Last week Anne McGuire, MP for Stirling, was appointed as parliamentary private secretary to Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary.

Robinson shows range of his Treasury role

BY JAMES LANDALE
POLITICAL REPORTER

GEOFFREY ROBINSON demonstrated the breadth of his responsibilities in Government yesterday as he fought to resolve the crisis in the coal industry.

The Paymaster General was locked in discussions at the Treasury with coal and power industry chiefs aimed at reaching a deal to extend contracts and prevent pit closures and job losses. His involvement over the past few weeks has raised questions at Westminster over why he, as a Treasury minister, is dealing with a matter that should be the responsibility of the Trade and Industry Department.

Some MPs have seen the move as a slight against Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, who is understood to have been criticised from within the Government for her department's failure to resolve the issue. But government sources insisted yesterday that Mr Robinson's experience as a businessman made him ideal for the job outside his normal responsibilities. "The Prime Minister asked him to get involved because of his expertise in business matters," one said.

It was for these reasons — Mr Robinson's ability to broker deals — that Tony Blair made him a minister in the first place. According to the Treasury, Mr Robinson has responsibility for a substantial amount of mainstream government business. His brief covers economic growth, the windfall tax, Welfare to Work issues, public/private partnerships, competition and deregulation policy, Treasury interest in small firms and assistance to the Chief Secretary on public expenditure planning and control.

For all this work, Mr Robinson has refused to accept a salary. But most importantly, as Paymaster General he is at the centre of government reforms of the tax system. His first job in government was to review corporation tax. This is now complete and last month Gordon Brown announced that the tax would be cut by one percentage point from April 1999, and advanced corporation tax will be phased out.

Mr Robinson was also behind the Government's new personal savings system and the introduction of the individual saving accounts (Isas). By putting a £50,000 cap on tax-free savings, he was accused of effectively imposing a new tax on richer savers. As a minister accused of using offshore trusts to avoid taxes, Mr Robinson has faced most criticism for his membership of a Labour team intent on cutting down on the use of tax havens.

But Mr Blair's spokesman said yesterday that the Prime Minister believed that Mr Robinson's business expertise "gives us an added dimension in government, which has already borne fruit in relation to the windfall tax, some of the discussions we have had on coal, and the public-private finance arrangements John Prescott is trying to put together".

Mr Robinson's officials welcome his approach to government, which they say is markedly different from that of professional politicians. "The speed with which he gets things moving is actually quite refreshing," one said.

Magnus Linklater, page 18
Robinson faces heat, page 26



Robinson: expertise is highly valued

Strange finances are no reason to resign

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

GEOFFREY ROBINSON should not resign as a minister. His financial affairs are certainly strange and his explanations for his dealings with the Guernsey trust have been confusing and in some respects inconsistent. But nothing has *so far* emerged to suggest that he has done anything wrong as a Treasury minister. The campaign against him is in danger of turning into a personal vendetta, a hunt for a ministerial scalp. To some of his Tory and press critics, Mr Robinson's real crime is being a successful businessman and multi-millionaire who is a member of a Labour Government.

In all these affairs, there comes a stage when the central issues are submerged by a mass of often irrelevant details. Proportion is lost and the anoraks take over. In this case, many of the questions about the timing and nature of transactions involving the offshore trust are fascinating for followers of the Robinson family saga but are beside the point since they relate to events before he became a minister.

There are two real questions. First, has Mr Robinson broken the rules of the Commons on the disclosure and registration of financial interests? This applies to all MPs and is nothing to do with Mr Robinson being a minister. This aspect is being examined by Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards. Second, is there a conflict between Mr Robinson's financial holdings and his role as a Treasury minister? However opaque his offshore interests and his account of them, no one has demonstrated that there has been any conflict with his responsibilities at the Treasury. He has shown no favouritism to any special interests.

The most that can be argued is that Mr Robinson became involved with offshore trusts at a time when Labour was committed to countering this tax loophole. This can perhaps be described as hypocrisy, and insensitive, though Mr Robinson has done nothing remotely illegal. However, as he has pointed out, he has personally paid large amounts in British tax.

Such complicated situations are unavoidable if successful businessmen are to be involved in government. This is desirable in its own right since they bring insights that cannot be provided by conventional career politicians. Mr Robinson may be rather a loner and an oddball by the standards of Westminster, but the word from Whitehall is that he has brought a fresh viewpoint to issues such as the private finance initiative.

Tony Blair is right to stand by him. Tory spokesmen demanding Mr Robinson's resignation are guilty of just the type of knee-jerk opposition for its own sake that they justifiably attacked Labour for before the election. The Government should be able to ride out the affair unless evidence of a direct conflict is proved. But the Treasury should make it clear that Mr Robinson is not going to be involved in any decisions on tax policy.

Moreover, both the Robinson and the Ecclestone controversies show why the present system of ethical advice needs to be changed. At present, ministers consult their permanent secretaries about applying the Ministerial Code. No one disputes that Sir Terry Burns has done his duty in advising Mr Robinson. But permanent secretaries are in an impossible position, being unable to challenge their own ministers to offer fuller explanations. The Neill committee is also the wrong body to examine individual cases. Instead there should be a permanent government ethical adviser or commissioner who would have the authority to investigate.

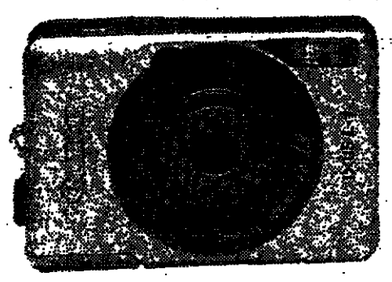
The Robinson affair has undoubtedly been an embarrassing distraction for the Government. But it is a pity that his critics have not devoted the same energies and column inches to an issue where he should be held to account — his muddled proposals for individual savings accounts, which really affect people.

PETER RIDDELL

IN PARLIAMENT

TODAY In the Commons: questions on environment, the regions and transport; National Minimum Wage Bill, second reading; short debate on by-passes for northeast Hertfordshire. In the Lords: Supreme Court (Offices) Bill, third reading; Scottish Agricultural College Order Confirmation Bill, third reading; Education (Student Loans) Bill, committee; Crime and Disorder Bill, second reading; Firearms (Amendment) Act Compensation Scheme Order; debate on proposed changes to Independent Television Commission codes to allow production of programmes based on magazine titles.

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Lawyers' walkout leaves Carlos in trial limelight

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE legal defence team of Carlos the Jackal became a one-man band yesterday, after his lawyers stormed out of a Paris court claiming that his murder trial was illegal and unjust.

Carlos, 48, whose real name is Illich Ramirez Sánchez, stands accused of shooting two French Secret Service agents and their Lebanese informer in 1975.

No fewer than 29 lawyers have been advising Carlos on legal strategy, but from the start of his trial the accused terrorist mastermind has left no doubt that intends to manage his own, highly eccentric defence.

His lawyer, Isabelle Coutant-Peyre, argued that the trial should be called off immediately because Carlos had been "illegally" snatched from Sudan by French agents in 1994.

After Yves Corneloup, the presiding judge, rejected the defence appeal, Mme Coutant-Peyre announced she was withdrawing from the case, along with her two fellow defence lawyers. "Your decision is contrary to the principles I am sworn to defend," the lawyer said. Judge Corneloup ordered her to continue representing Carlos, but she refused, and may now face disciplinary action by the court.

Carlos spent three years in solitary confinement in the run-up to the trial, and seemed quite unfazed to be left in legal isolation after the latest act of courtroom melodrama in what is building up to be one of the strangest legal cases of recent times.

Since French procedure calls for defendants to be represented, the court, after a recess, appointed a new attorney to defend Carlos.

Defending himself from the dock with typical gusto, Carlos launched into a fresh flurry of objections, accusing Judge Courneloup of a conflict of interest and insisting that the 1975 killings were the fault of Mossad, the Israeli secret service.

"These policemen were sent to the slaughterhouse by Israeli agents," the Venezuelan-born Carlos declared, speaking French with an almost impenetrable Spanish accent.

He also argued that Judge Corneloup should be disqualified from presiding since, earlier in his career, he had investigated a 1979 bombing for which Carlos was held responsible.

Carlos said that Judge Corneloup had also carried out an inquiry into the 1983 bombing of a Paris restaurant in which Françoise Rudetski, the head of the terrorist victims' support group SOS Attentats, was injured.

SOS Attentats is representing the families of the men murdered in 1975 as civil plaintiffs, and on the opening day of the trial last Friday Carlos argued that the group was "Zionist, racist and revisionist" and should be prevented from participating.

Judge Courneloup, whose tolerance of Carlos's theatrical tendencies may be wearing thin, rejected that appeal and flatly refused to halt the trial, pointing out that his capture had already been approved by France's highest court.

REUTERS



Homeless Russian men sleeping in Moscow yesterday after the city suffered its coldest mid-December night in a century as the temperature fell to -27C (-17F). Four people died, 160 were taken to hospital and schools were forced to shut

Jobless Germans drown misery in sangria dreams

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

SANGRIA, it seems, is the opiate of the German worker. Elbowing their way into the discos and clubs of the Ruhr, tens of thousands of youths are crowding into Majorca parties which reproduce all the dubious pleasures of the El Arenal resort: wet T-shirt and beer-belly contests and, of course, sangria drunk from plastic buckets with long straws.

The reason for this strange cult is the phenomenal success of a film, *Ballermann 6*, which is that rare thing, a German comedy hit. One million Germans saw it in the first five days after its release, two million people had seen it after five weeks. Viewers imitate the heroes by turning up at the cinemas in wet, grey industrial cities, wearing Bermuda shorts, straw hats and sandals, clutching six-packs of beer, ready to wage popcorn battles and burp their way through the film.

> "It does for Spain what 'Trainspotting' did for steam engines — very little"

Ballermann 6 does for Spain what *Trainspotting* did for steam engines: very little. It takes its name from Beach Number Six in El Arenal, which has developed a reputation for a specific brand of alcoholic anarchy. More than 2.5 million Germans a year now land on Majorca, which has barely 600,000 inhabitants. Once, the island was clearly divided between British and German holidaymakers, with some towns, streets and hotels ethnically segregated. But the British are in retreat and streets are dominated by German sausage stands, beer halls and German dentists, hairdressers and notaries.

The real division nowadays is between the heavily protected celebrity residents — Michael Douglas, Claudia Schiffer, Boris Becker all have a foothold — and the concrete silos of the package resorts.

So extensive is the German colonisation — *Der Spiegel* magazine calls it the 17th German state — that one businessman has started a political party for German residents. Another German businessman, known as the Beer King of the Island because of his hold on alchohol distribution, was recently the victim of a mob killing.

The *Ballerman* film has spawned Top Ten hits, T-shirts, cigarette lighters, baseball caps, schnapps bottles, perfume, beer, condoms and easily unfastened Ballermann bras. The film stars two working-class boys who stagger their way around the resort. They get off to a good start by vomiting on fellow airliner passengers and one gets stuck in the lavatory. After that, the film is all downhill. The heroes nearly drown in a huge sangria bucket which also contains two women in bikinis.

The serious underpinning of the Ballermann cult is that the morale of the younger members of the German working class has rarely been lower. Unemployment is at postwar record highs and is edging up towards five million. Trips to Majorca are cheap, even for the unemployed. They fly over with their friends, eat German food, get drunk on German beer and then return. *Ballermann 6* celebrates this, and probably prods the memory of many who were too comatose at the time to recall what actually happened on the island.

Danes play host to suspected Bosnian war criminal

FROM TOM WALKER IN BIJELINA

EMBARRASSED Danish officials have admitted that a suspected Bosnian Serb war criminal spent a week in their country observing last month's local elections. His travel arrangements in and out of Bosnia were made by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

Ljubisa Savic — nicknamed "Mauser" — is said by many international and local observers to have played a lead role in the start of Bosnia's bloody collapse. He admits being a pivotal figure in the ethnic cleansing of Muslims from Bijelina, the most important town in northeast Bosnia, which coincided with some of the war's worst atrocities.

Mix-ups and administrative bungles seem to have led to Mr Savic's invitation to Denmark as part of a group of Bosnian observers who left Sarajevo on November 13. A convert to the politics of Biljana Plavsic, the Western-backed Bosnian Serb President, Mr Savic was selected as a suitable witness to the democratic process by the National Assembly of Danish Municipalities. After being brought to the Bosnian capital by the OSCE from Bosnian Serb territory, he was flown by Austrian Airlines to Vienna and then on to Copenhagen. "We found out just about as soon as he'd taken off that he had a history," said a Danish source in Sarajevo yesterday.

Alarm bells were, meanwhile, ringing inside the Bosnian Government, which had been telephoned by angry Muslims from the Austrian Airlines flight after it reached Vienna. With no known indictment or arrest warrant for Mr Savic, however, nothing could be done and he continued to Denmark. Danish and OSCE officials helped to reroute his trip back to Bosnia via the Serbian capital, Belgrade, after Mr Savic said he feared he would be arrested in Sarajevo.

The OSCE has wiped its hands of the affair, saying it was asked only at the last minute to help the Danes.

The Danish source said a well-meaning idea from municipal authority observers to the Bosnian elections had backfired.

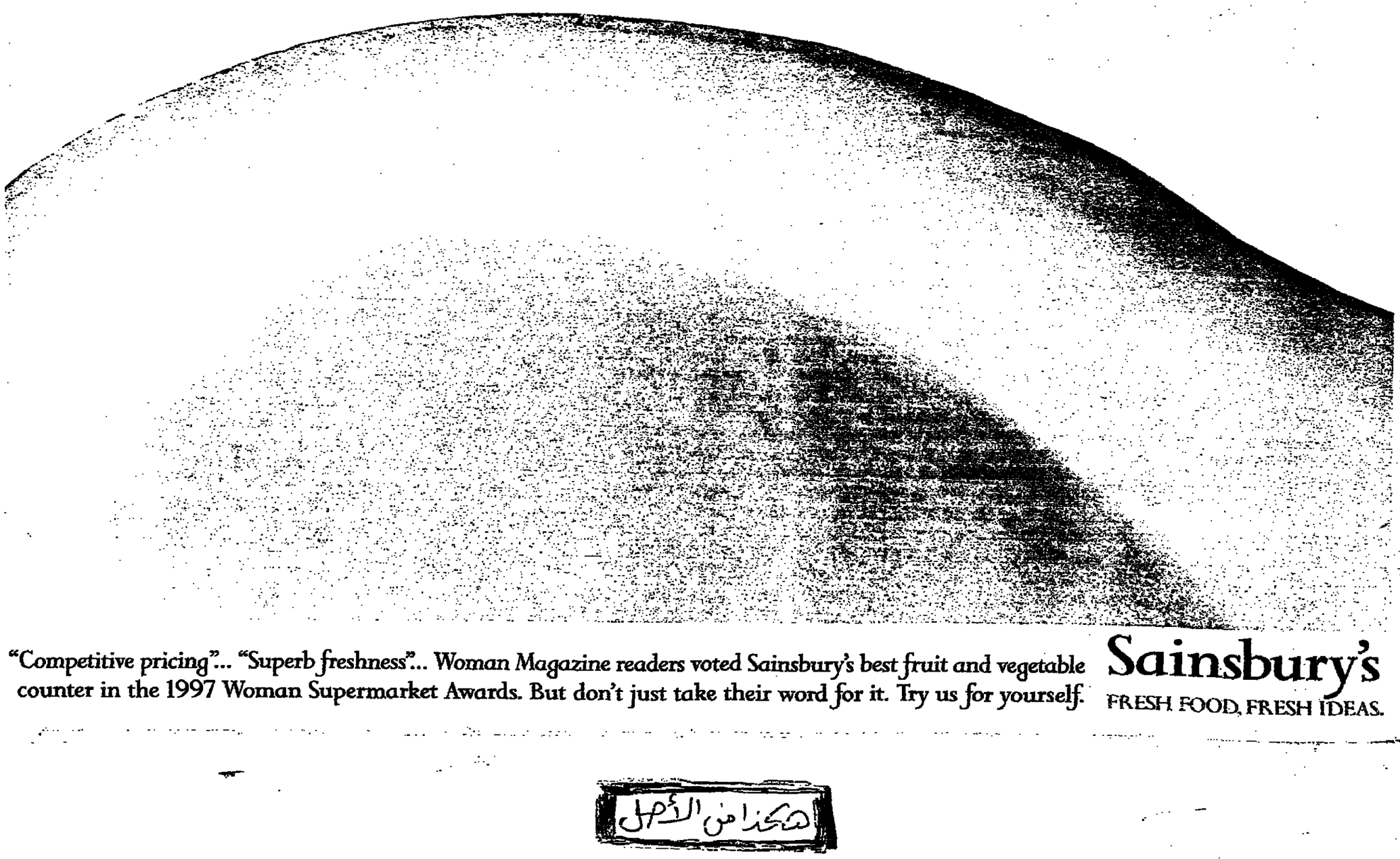
Back in the relative sanctity of Republika Srpska, Mr Savic said that he lived in fear of Sarajevo and the Bosnian Serb hardliners. He now heads the executive board of the Democratic Party of Republika Srpska, which is fighting Radovan Karadzic loyalists for control of Bijelina, one of Republika Srpska's few towns with economic potential.

His detractors — and they are legion — accuse him of widespread ethnic cleansing in 1992, when his "Panther" paramilitaries joined forces with thugs operating under the notorious Serb warlord Arkan. Mr Savic says he helped to move Muslims to the safety of Bosnian Federation territory or abroad, knowing that if they stayed they might be killed.

☐ **Washington:** President Clinton visits troops in Bosnia-Herzegovina next week in a Christmas trip designed to build the case for an extended US presence in the Balkans beyond June's scheduled withdrawal of Nato forces (Tom Rhodes writes).

Mr Clinton, who last visited Bosnia in January 1996, will tour Sarajevo and Tuzla, the region's biggest US base, during a whistle-stop visit. He will spend only 12 hours on the ground.

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Shortages damp spirit of Cuba's Christmas cheer

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

NEWS that Cubans will be able to celebrate Christmas as a holiday for the first time in 29 years caused widespread excitement yesterday. This was tempered, however, by the fact that most Cubans have little to look forward to. Churches will be open to all, but only those with access to US dollars sent by relatives in Miami are likely to be able to enjoy traditional Christmas festivities.

Most traditional Christmas decorations are only available at a limited number of government-run hard-currency stores. Children's toys are a rarity, and priced beyond the reach of most Cubans, who are paid on average the equivalent in local currency, the peso, of about $10 (£5.95) a month.

Even the traditional Cuban Christmas dinner staples, rum and pork, are almost impossible to come by in pesos. The Government is doing its best this year to make things as merry as possible by halving the price of pork and selling scarce Cuban rum and Spanish wines at rock-bottom dollar prices.

For the first time, selected dollar shops have decorated their windows with frosty Christmas scenes and stocked their shelves with plastic Christmas trees and Father Christmases. For those who cannot afford a tree, there is a flourishing black market trade in pine-tree branches being smuggled into the capital, Havana, from the countryside.

From a purely spiritual point of view, the news has been welcomed by the Vatican. Joaquin Navarro Valls, the Vatican spokesman, said he was "grateful" and "satisfied" with the decision which was "desired by all the Cuban people and the Cuban church". He did not comment on the fact that the holiday announced by President Castro is for this year only.

The announcement is one of a series of concessions that the Vatican had been seeking prior to a visit by the Pope to Cuba next month. It could signal the Government's willingness to give ground on other issues. The Vatican is still waiting to be allowed time on state-run Cuban television to publicise the Pope's visit. It has also asked that four open-air Masses be shown live on television. Cuba has said that may be impossible because economic cutbacks have stopped daytime broadcasts on Cuban television.

The Government has so far not responded to requests that the Vatican be allowed to control the camera angles and narration of the broadcasts of papal ceremonies.

Without providing any details, the state-run news agency, Prensa Latina, reported that President Castro had promised to help the Vatican to secure access to state radio and television. The President also promised at the weekend that the government media would publish and broadcast the Pope's traditional Christmas message.

However, observers remain sceptical. Despite the historic nature of the visit — it is the first by a Pope since the 1959 Cuban Revolution — the local media have largely ignored it. Since the visit was announced more than a year ago, the official party newspaper, *Granma*, has published a total of eight articles about it.

After decades of being cut off from the influences of Roman Catholicism, many Cubans remain ignorant of the Pope's role as head of the church. He is expected to push for a greater church role in education, as well as permits for more foreign missionary clergy and nuns.

The Government officially declared itself Communist and atheist in 1962, although Christmas Day continued to be celebrated as a holiday until 1969. Catholic priests were expelled.

Iraq 'stalling on arms details'

Nicosia: Richard Butler, the United Nations official in charge of dismantling President Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction, reported little progress in talks with senior Iraqi officials in Baghdad yesterday (Michael Theodoulou writes).

He said discussions on the core issue of access to dozens of restricted sites were not over yet, but added that he was disappointed that Iraq had failed to fulfil its promises to divulge new information on its outlawed biological and chemical weapons programmes. "Biology did not present anything new at all. In fact [Iraq gave] a rather defiant statement that said 'Nothing, there is nothing'," Mr Butler said. "Chemistry, we are still arguing about the nerve gas called VX."

Details emerged last night of the recent executions in Iraqi jails of 800 suspected dissidents. Relatives are being asked to pay 250,000 dinars, the equivalent of several months' wages, to collect bodies.

Leading article, page 19

CHRIS KLEPPENIS / EPA



President Clinton with his three-month-old, chocolate-coloured Labrador, which has joined the family cat, Socks, in the White House. The puppy is not yet named

Record number executed in jails of US

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

MORE prisoners were executed in 1997 than in any year since the United States restored the death penalty in 1976, according to the Justice Department.

Texas, which carried out exactly half of the total of 74 executions, was entirely responsible for the leap in the national figures from 45 executions in 1996. The state, which carried out only three executions in 1996, described itself as having a "backlog" of prisoners on death row until this year. Its total of 37 is the highest number of executions carried out by a single state in one year since 1930, when records began.

Virginia was far behind in second place, with nine executions. All of the 74 executed were men. Of the 70 executed by November 30, 44 were white, 24 black and two of other races. The last execution of a woman was in 1984.

Opponents of the death penalty yesterday seized on the figures as support for their case that executions are a "lottery" in which the numbers of the poorest and mentally handicapped come up most often. Donald Cabana, the former warden of Mississippi's Parchman prison, told *Vanity Fair* magazine this week that the penalty was "bingo personified".

The figures show the impact of the last year's federal Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act, which sharply curtailed the appeals process. The leap also reflects the growing popularity of the death penalty among state governments. Only New England is a liberal bastion.

The rise is supported by the majority of Americans. A Harris poll in 1965, when there were only seven executions, found 47 per cent opposed to the penalty and 38 per cent in favour; this year a Harris poll found nationwide support had doubled.



John Belushi: star of *Animal House*

The booze brothers still rule on campus

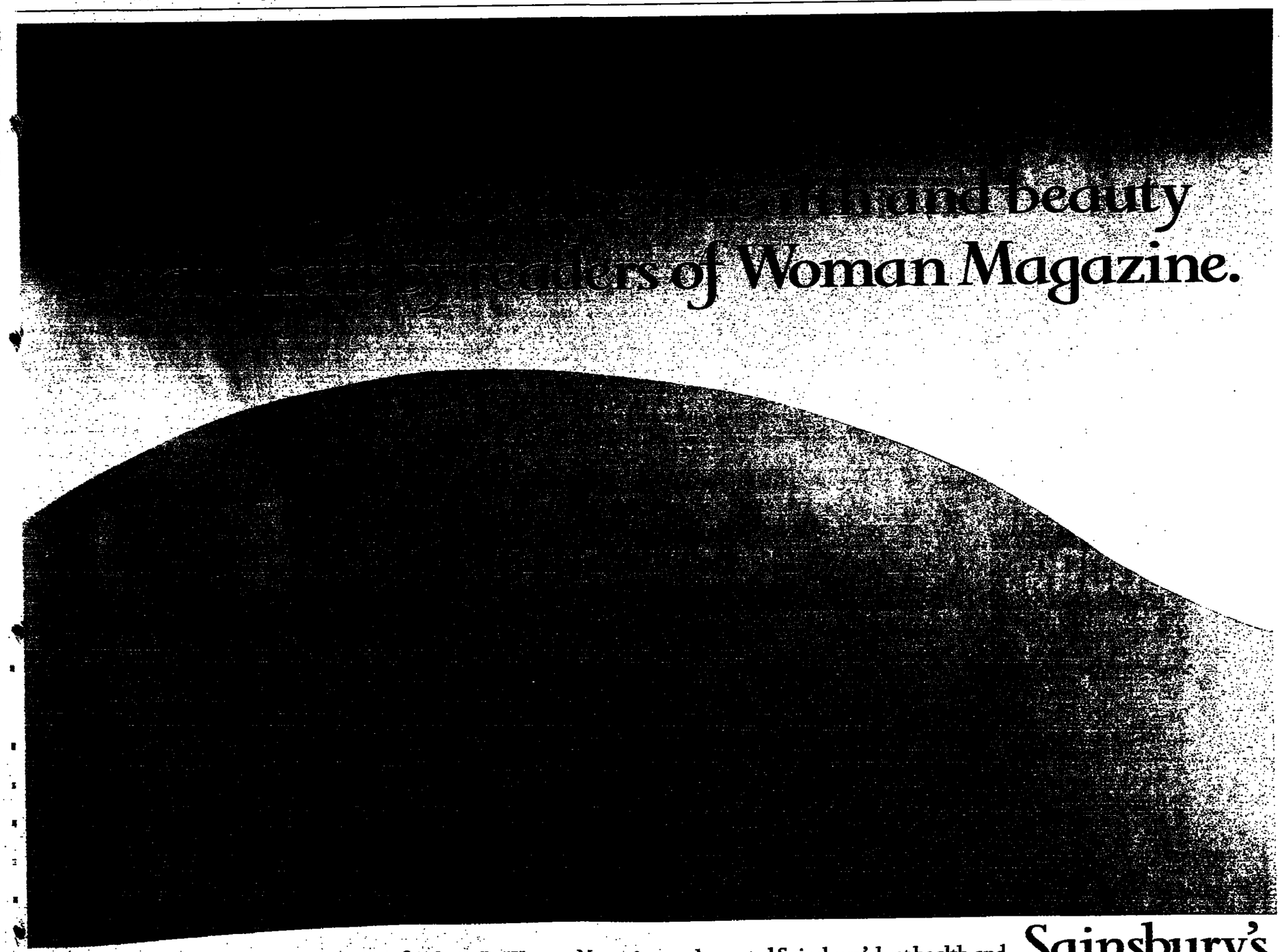
BY NIGEL HAWKES SCIENCE EDITOR

DISGRACEFUL behaviour is flourishing in the fraternity houses of American universities. Members still drink and party, reports a disapproving team of academics in the latest issue of the *Journal of Studies of Alcohol*.

Far from setting an example, leaders of fraternities — named after the Greek alphabet — drink more, pass out more often, suffer more hangovers and take part in more fights than ordinary members. On this evidence, the comedy film *Animal House* deserves reclassification as a documentary.

The authors, from the universities of Cornell and Southern Illinois, defined "binge drinking" as five or more drinks in a row, and discovered after gathering data from 25,411 students at 61 institutions that three quarters of fraternity leaders had reached that target at least once in the previous fortnight. In sororities, 55 per cent of leaders were "binge drinkers".

Both sexes agreed that drink "facilitates sexual opportunities", with men holding the view more strongly. "Students see alcohol as a vehicle for friendship, social activity and sexual opportunity, and these beliefs clearly occur to a greater degree among Greeks [fraternity-members] than non-Greeks," says Dr Cheryl Presley.



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Mandela hands ANC leadership to sharp-suited master of survival



Mbeki: critics say he is Machiavellian

BY SAM KILEY
AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

WHEN Nelson Mandela steps down as president of the African National Congress today and bows out of daily politics to enjoy being a largely ceremonial head of state for the next two years, real power in South Africa will be concentrated in the hands of a man variously described as a "delight" and a "shadowy manipulator".

Pipe-smoking, sharp-suited, sincere and level-headed. Thabo Mbeki, 55, is much liked and admired by South Africa's big businessmen. A long-time member of the Communist Party, he received military training in the former Soviet Union, and now often dines at the home of a former *MI6 agent near Johannesburg.*

His ability to sup with his former enemies reveals what his critics say is a shamelessly Machiavellian streak. To his friends, it shows he has taken Mr Mandela's mantra of reconciliation and compromise to heart. The truth lies somewhere between the two.

A dull to boring public speaker, *Mr Mbeki will be elected unop*posed to the presidency of the ANC on Thursday morning. Already Deputy President of South Africa, he has been running the country and chairing Cabinet meetings for the past year. The top party post will ensure that he will also succeed Mr Mandela to the presidency in *the 1999 general elections.* Just as the ANC was anxious to ensure a smooth transition from white rule to democracy, so it has been keen to ensure there are no potholes in the road for Mr Mbeki. But there have been prominent casualties shouldered aside by the ambitious son of Govan Mbeki, who with Mr Mandela and Walter Sisulu formed *a triumvirate at the heart of the* party.

The first to fall was Cyril Ramaphosa, the former general secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers, who became the ANC's chief negotiator in constitutional talks with the National Party government. He might have expected to be chosen as Mr Mandela's number two after the 1994 elections. Passed over, he left politics for the private sector. Bantu Holomisa, the former military leader of the Transkei homeland, left the ANC this year in a row over his publicising of corruption in the party. More recently Tokyo Sexwale, the Premier of Gauteng province, announced he was also leaving politics after a squabble with Mr Mbeki.

His critics are quick to accuse Mr Mbeki of Stalinist tendencies over his alleged inability to tolerate dissent and because he appears able to drive his nearest rivals into political oblivion. But Messrs Ramaphosa, Holomisa and Sexwale were perhaps also seen as being a little too charismatic for the top post, not quite team players.

When asked how he would fill Mr Mandela's shoes, Mr Mbeki's tongue-in-cheek reply was: "Well, I can't imagine that there's any such requirement. I mean, he's got very big feet. What does that mean? Does it mean we start off by going to jail for 27 years and then sort of graduate from there, grow taller, wear those strange shirts? No, no, it's not a rational expectation."

He said that, as it was the ANC "organs" which decided policy just as Mr Mandela has had to consult the "movement" before taking decisions, so he would be bound by the same strictures. "There will be no sudden changes," he said.

But Mr Mbeki will face challenges spared Mr Mandela due to the reverence he is shown by South Africans both inside and outside the ANC.

The biggest may emerge from within the party, which is showing signs that its membership feels isolated from its top leaders, most of whom come from the group of exiles who spent most of their lives fighting the white regime from outside the country.

Albright signals softer US approach on Africa

BY SAM KILEY IN HARARE AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE American Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, yesterday signalled a switch in United States foreign policy on Africa, softening a previously tough approach towards African dictators.

Briefly stopping in Harare at the end of her first tour of Africa that took her to seven countries on the continent, Mrs Albright said she had come to the continent to listen. "I have listened, and I think as a result of that I feel very strongly that human rights and the rule of law has to continue to be the bedrock of our relationship.

"But we have to understand the local context," she added. "We make a mistake if we think every African country is the same and we can just organise [things] the way that we think everything should be done."

After an hour-long meeting with President Mugabe, she told a Harare press conference of "the great leadership role the President has been fulfilling".

The subtle shift in American policy towards Africa was reflected at each of Mrs Albright's stops as she promoted engagement without judgment, the mantra that marked America's relationship with China during President Clinton's first term.

Her remarks yesterday came after strikes and rioting in Harare last week. Morgan Tsvangirai, a union leader, was beaten up in his office by five men and two women after he organised last week's general strike, which shut down the private and public sectors in a spectacular show of discontent with 17 years of Mr Mugabe's rule. He blamed the attack on the Government, and his assailants were identified as members of Zanu's youth wing. Few locals believe they will be successfully prosecuted.

The assault on the union leader and reports that the army was moments from intervening with bullets against strikers have left many fearing that future protests will be suppressed savagely. "Strikes are *something that we must* use very sparingly and responsibly. We cannot give the Government the chance to fulfil its promise to use live ammunition to break up demonstrations in the future," said Mr Tsvangirai, recuperating at his home on the outskirts of the capital.

The success of the strike, which ended in riots after police defied a court order to allow peaceful demonstrations in Harare and fired teargas into the crowd, has caused panic in Zanu ranks, too. *Outsiders wonder how long* Mr Mugabe, 76, can stay in power.

Ranged against him is what he has called an "unholy alliance". Private businesses paid their employees a full day's wage on the day of the strike, which also had the support of the conservative *Commercial Farmers' Union* (mostly white landowners) and the public-sector unions which, until last week, were staunchly pro-Zanu.

"How can you run a country when everyone feels alienated? *Mugabe's arrogance has cre*ated a convergence of discontent," said Mr Tsvangirai.

With unemployment of at least 33 per cent, inflation over 30 per cent, the Zimbabwe dollar in freefall and capital fleeing fast after the announcement of plans to seize 1,503 commercial farms without *compensation, Mr Mugabe* has very little good news to shore up his power base.

"The man is either mad, stupid, or both. No one here wants anything more than a change of government," said *Wilson Ndube, a street* cobbler. "The rich hate him, but the poor hate him more. His Government is corrupt from top to bottom."

Many of Mr Mugabe's problems began with a campaign for compensation launched by veterans of the war against white minority rule. *Their rage reached fever* pitch when an investigation by the independent press revealed that the President's cronies had been awarded payouts of tens of thousands of pounds for spurious injuries *sustained during the war.*

Fuel and power levies to finance awards to veterans were shelved after the protests last week.

HOWARD BURDITT / REUTERS



Madeleine Albright relaxes at the Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe, the last leg of a seven-nation tour of Africa

WORLD IN BRIEF

Britons hostage in Nigerian job row

Two Britons are among a number of foreign oil workers being held hostage on a Nigerian houseboat in a labour dispute between Nigerian employees and Western Geophysical, the Houston-based oil exploration company (Victoria Fletcher writes). A third Briton was released yesterday from the boat, near Benin City in the southwest. The Foreign Office has named Paul Breslin as one of those held since last Saturday.

Foreign Office officials were confident there would be a quick and peaceful end to the incident. "None of the hostages has been harmed and they are all in touch with their families by phone," a spokesman said.

Doctors to pay for failure

Karlsruhe: Germany's highest court said doctors who failed to perform sterilisation operations successfully could be liable for the upkeep of children born subsequently. The Constitutional Court ruling came in the case of a urologist who had appealed against an order by a lower court to pay maintenance to a patient after the birth of a child. In a separate judgment, the court ruled that a doctor could be ordered to pay maintenance if a child was born disabled after its parents were given misleading genetic advice. *(Reuters)*

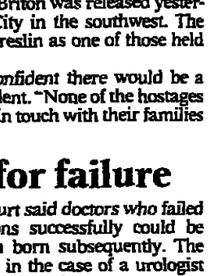
Malnutrition 'emergency'

Geneva: Infant malnutrition, which affects one child in two in South Asia and one in three in Africa, is the world's "silent emergency", Unicef said in its annual assessment. Twelve million children under five die every year and malnutrition is a factor in 55 per cent of cases. The report said the world had sufficient food resources to overcome the problem. Although linked to poverty, it noted that malnutrition was widespread in developed countries such as Britain and the US. *(AFP)*

Rescue team finds boy skier

Bonneville: A six-year-old skier was found unhurt by French mountain rescue workers after disappearing on Sunday and falling 190ft down a crevasse. The boy, from Switzerland, disappeared while skiing behind his parents and sister on the Flaine mountain, near here. Rescue workers located the crevasse after finding one of the boy's skis. They said his fall was broken by a thick layer of snow at the bottom. *(AFP)*

Ramos choice challenged



Manila: Renato de Villa, right, a former Philippines Defence Secretary, broke ranks with President Ramos and launched his own presidential bid for the 1998 election, challenging the man nominated by the President to succeed him (Abby Tan writes). Mr de Villa, 62, a soldier whose career path closely followed that of Mr Ramos, his mentor, said he would oppose the President's choice, José de Venecia, the Speaker in the lower house.

Homeless rate soars in US

Washington: Soaring rates of hunger and homelessness in US cities are casting doubt on ambitious welfare reforms (Bronwen Maddox writes). City mayors are concerned by a survey of 29 cities by the United States Conference of Mayors which found that demand for food rose by 16 per cent in 1997, the largest jump for five years.

Aristocrat's red-letter day

Moscow: A descendant of Count Grigori Orlov, a lover of Catherine the Great, has won election to the Moscow city council, Tass said. Stepan Orlov, an independent, became the first aristocrat elected to a legislative body since the Russian Revolution, the agency reported. *(AFP)*

Black Muslim leader flees Jerusalem after death threat

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

LOUIS FARRAKHAN, the American black Muslim leader, hastily cancelled a visit to Jerusalem's Islamic holy sites yesterday and crossed back into Jordan after reports of death threats by Jewish extremists.

The Nation of Islam leader, on a 52-nation world tour, caught Israel's intelligence services by surprise when he crossed the Israeli-guarded Allenby Bridge from Jordan to the West Bank on Sunday. Yesterday, after talks with Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian leader, in Gaza and an overnight stay in the Palestinian self-rule town of Ramallah, Mr Farrakhan left as unexpectedly as he had arrived, claiming he felt unwelcome in Israel and feared for his safety.

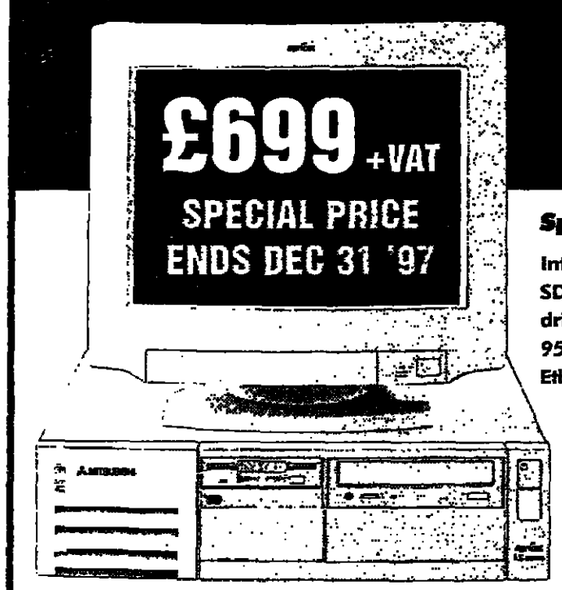
He said that he had changed his plans after learning of planned Jewish protests against his visit to Al Aqsa Mosque in annexed east Jerusalem, the third holiest Islamic shrine after Mecca and Medina. "If anything should happen to me in this land, it could not bring good results in black-Jewish relations in the US, so in the interest of peace I think it is best that I leave," he said.

Israeli officials made no secret of their relief at his quick exit. The right-wing Government had reviewed banning him from the country because of his alleged anti-Semitism, but had declined because he was travelling on an American passport and Israeli-US relations are already strained over the lack of progress in the Middle East peace process. "I think the moment he leaves here, we can say we are blessed to be rid of this anti-Semite and racist," said Danny Naveh, the Israeli Cabinet Secretary and a close confidant of the Prime Minister. "His meetings with the Palestinian leadership are proof of the maxim: 'Tell me who your friends are and I will tell you who you are'."

Mr Arafat praised the black leader. "We are very happy to have this opportunity to meet our brother in our land," he said in Gaza. "We spoke in detail of all the difficulties we are facing and how to push forward the process for peace."

☐ **Settler jailed:** The founder of the West Bank settler movement, Moshe Levinger, was jailed for six months for assault and disturbing the peace three years ago in Hebron. Jerusalem magistrates also fined him 8,000 shekels (£1,400) as part of a plea bargain. Levinger was convicted of disturbing Muslim prayers at Hebron's Tomb of the Patriarchs and for blocking an army commander from entering the nearby Jewish settlement of Kiryat Arba. *(AP)*

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Asia appeals for global aid to steady markets

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN KUALA LUMPUR

THE once proud leaders of the former tiger economies of South-East Asia, reeling from falling stock markets and plummeting currencies, yesterday called for international assistance in helping to curb the financial crisis gripping the region.

Even as Asian leaders met at the summit here, the Malaysian ringgit, the Thai baht and the Indonesian rupiah fell to record lows, in the latter case over continuing fears for the health of President Suharto, 76.

In a bid to reassure his countrymen, President Suharto has been shown on Indonesian television, but he remained seated. Some Indonesians fear that their leader, known to have wanted to attend the current crisis summit of the Association of South-East Asian Nations; (Asean), had suffered a stroke.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Malaysian Prime Minister hosting the summit which this time includes Japan, China and South Korea, yesterday witnessed the ringgit fall to an embarrassing all-time low point against the US dollar. He called for greater efforts by the United States, Europe and Japan to ease global market problems.

"Despite the economic fundamentals of the regional economies being corrected and improved through the support and advice of the International Monetary Fund, the depreciation of the currencies has continued unabated," Dr Mahathir said. "This has resulted in serious regression in the economic well-being of the countries, their businesses and their peoples," he said, hinting at the threat to social stability caused by the turmoil in financial markets.

As the summit got under way yesterday at the luxurious Palace of the Golden Horses resort — somewhat at odds with the austerity the region will inevitably face — the Malaysian leader, 71, said that every effort should be made to remove barriers to trade and to promote greater trade and investment within Asean. However, the grouping was not trying to establish a trading bloc. "The wealth of our countries is depleted and we no longer have the money to pay for goods imported from overseas," he said. Malaysians have been encouraged to plant vegetables in their gardens and conserve resources.

The IMF has arranged loans for the region totalling $100 billion (£61.8 billion), but Asean leaders believe more is needed because currencies remain weak and investor confidence low. Moreover, there appears to be growing unease about the way the IMF is helping the region and Dr Mahathir believes that some of the IMF strategies should be reconsidered. He accused the IMF of looking at the macro-economic picture only, and not seeing the impact of its measures.

The three-day summit meeting was intended as a 30th anniversary party for Asean. But it was transformed into the present crisis summit with the region's financial turmoil at the top of the agenda.

President Jiang Zemin of China told the summit leaders that Asia's financial upheavals had "taught people a profound lesson". Economic development would improve once East Asian nations had learnt the lesson, and had made the necessary readjustments.

Business, 25

Korean shoppers rush to beat rises

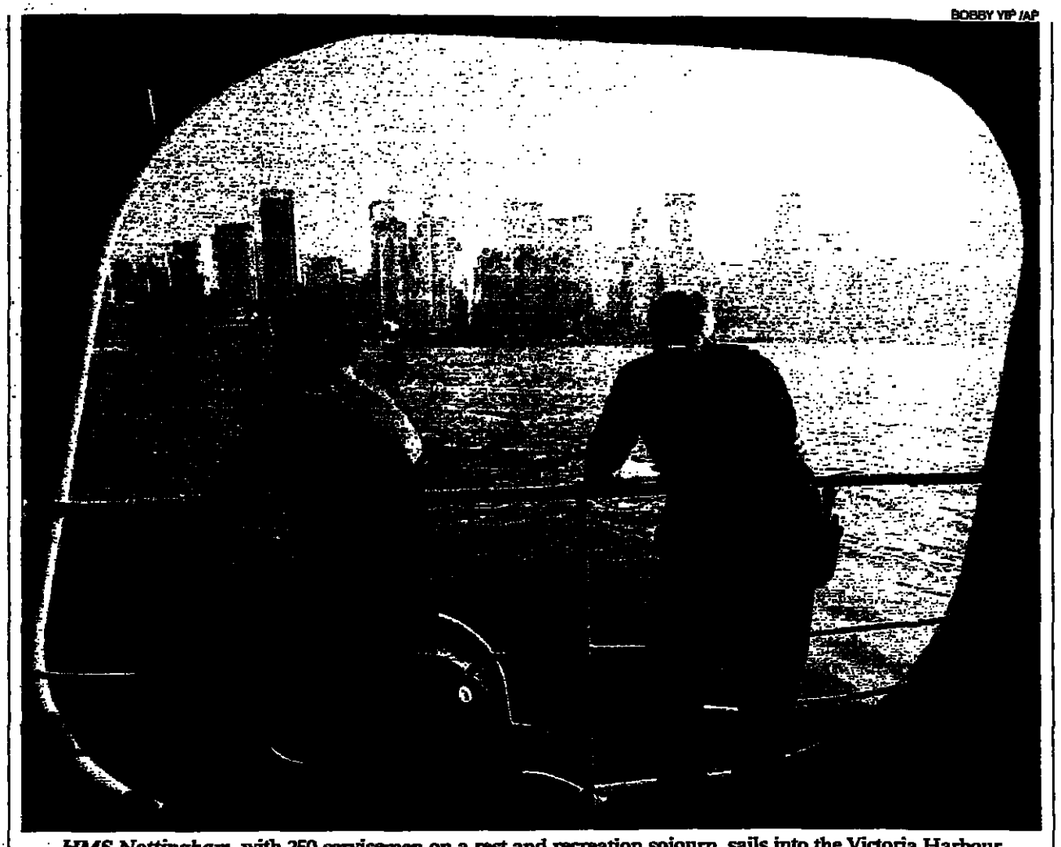
FROM JENNIFER VEALE IN SEOUL

PANIC buying is sweeping South Korea, emptying supermarkets of daily staples as people try to beat prices rises stemming from the deepening financial crisis. "It is a war mentality and Koreans are preparing for war," says Professor Hahm Chai Bong, a political scientist at Seoul's Yonsei University. "It's an interesting social phenomenon."

Imported and local products are disappearing from shelves or rocketing in price as consumers hoard provisions and shops bump up prices to cover mounting foreign exchange losses.

Korean housewives are scurrying to buy in bulk flour, sugar and noodles, vulnerable to price rises because they contain imported ingredients. Yesterday Korean television showed pictures of shoppers queueing ten-deep at check-outs of discount stores. Some were pushing two or three trolleys together.

The panic, which began to sweep across South Korea a few days ago, comes as the currency, the won, struggled yesterday to regain lost ground. It closed significantly higher at 1503.9 to the US dollar, but has lost nearly half its dollar value this year. The stock market rebounded, but further recovery is unlikely with economic growth set to plunge to 3 per cent.



BOBBY YIP/AP

HMS Nottingham, with 250 servicemen on a rest and recreation sojourn, sails into the Victoria Harbour yesterday to become the first British warship to visit Hong Kong after the transfer of sovereignty to China

Hong Kong democrat cuts UK link

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

EMILY LAU, Hong Kong's most vigorous and popular democrat, said yesterday that she will give up her British passport to run for the Legislative Council next year.

"The law requires all candidates for direct election not to have foreign passports. I want to stand for direct election," she said.

Hong Kong will next year hold its first elections for the council since the transfer of sovereignty to China. Since the handover the present 60 members, selected by a 400-member committee appointed by Beijing, have been passing laws. They replaced the wholly elected body which the new Government expunged.

Under the Basic Law, China's mini-constitution for Hong Kong, there will be a series of four-yearly elections which may culminate in 2007 with a completely elected body and even chief executive.



Emily Lau: will fight direct elections

One third of the seats in next year's election will be directly elected in accordance with a proportional representation system which many here charge was devised by Beijing to limit the number of democratically inclined candidates like Ms Lau to 12, instead of the 24 in the last elected council. The remaining 40 seats will be elected by "functional constituencies," based on occupation, some of which are very small, or by an election committee of Beijing allies. Twelve of the "functional" members may hold foreign passports.

Next year's council, like the present one, will therefore consist of many members defeated by democrats in 1995, although a public opinion poll published yesterday by the *South China Morning Post* showed that, if there were an immediate first-past-the-post election, democrats would win a substantial majority.

Ms Lau is determined to win one of the 20 directly elected seats, for which she must abandon her British citizenship, acquired in the 1980s. Before the handover she had often given a warning that she might leave Hong Kong. Instead she formed the Frontier Party, which stands for an immediately elected council and chief executive by a one-man, one-vote system.

In all public opinion polls during the past five years Ms Lau, 45, a council member until July, scored in the top three most popular political figures, and even without a seat she has maintained her constituency office and rousing political style.

A graduate of the University of Southern California and the LSE, until her election to the council in 1991 Ms Lau was one of Hong Kong's most outspoken journalists, a constant thorn in the side of British politicians of whom she demanded immediate and total democracy.

Letters, page 23

Hun Sen's tanks pound rival's bastion

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN BANGKOK

HUN SEN, the Cambodian leader, yesterday launched an attack supported by tanks on the last bastion of his rival Co-Prime Minister, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, in the northwest of the country, the Thai military reported.

The battle for the border town of O'Smach broke out early in the day and continued amid fierce firefights until the afternoon, sources in the Thai task force responsible for border control said. "The fighting today was heavy," a military officer said.

The fighting broke out during an informal summit of leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in the Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur. Cambodia had been due to join the nine-member grouping in July along with Laos, but its admission was postponed after the violent street battles which broke out in Phnom Penh, ousting the Prince.

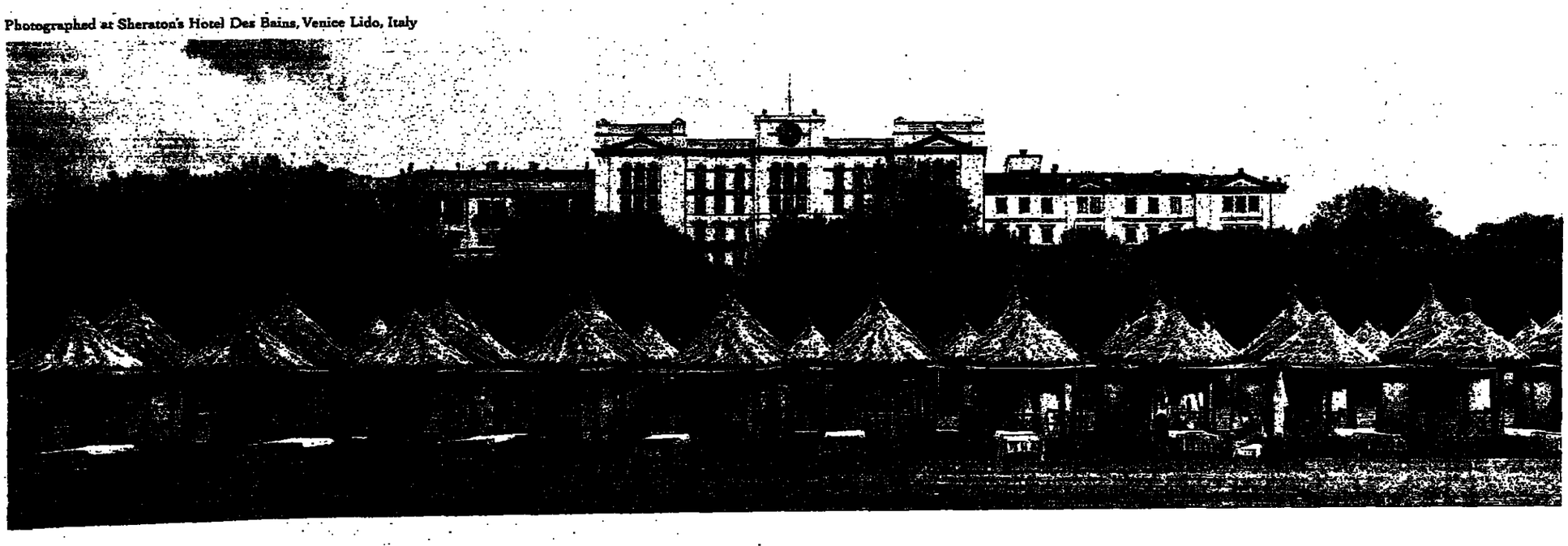
The latest fighting was led by fire from seven tanks under the command of the forces of Hun Sen, the Second Prime Minister, the sources said, adding "several" soldiers loyal to the Prince were sent for medical care in Thailand.

Five tanks fired on the last bastion of the Prince's troops in the stronghold of O'Smach, which lies on a hilltop straddling the border with Thailand. One of two other tanks which advanced a mile from O'Smach was reported to have been destroyed.

The fighting ended after several hours of heavy artillery exchanges between the two sides, the Thai army source said, adding that several shells had fallen within Thai territory. Casualty figures were not immediately available for either side.

The two sides began battling in July, when Hun Sen ousted Prince Ranariddh after two days of battles in Phnom Penh.

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Who will save this child?

South African doctors can't save Dorah's eyes. Perhaps their British counterparts can. **Bronwen Jones** appeals urgently for help

BRONWEN JONES



A friend with three-year-old Dorah Moekena, the "ugliest duckling, the most beautiful swan" in South Africa

I have a friend called Dorah. She is three. They want to cut her eyes out. I know of only one way to save her from this terrible pain and loss, and that is to achieve worldwide levels of publicity that an injured child has never known. And to hope that some super-surgeon will be reached by that publicity and step in before it is too late.

Dorah lives in South Africa. The child of a child, she and her 14-year-old mother lived in a squatter camp with a blind grandmother and an alcoholic uncle. One day the shack called home caught fire. The seven-month-old baby struggled to breathe amid the flames and pushed fiery timbers away as they fell on her face. The heat burnt off her hands.

I have tried to write about Dorah before, with limited success. Many local publications react as though disabled children are another species and barely, rarely, worth a mention. Whether harmed by biology or poor parenting, they are seen as a distasteful subject. "Not our kind of story" echoes in my ears.

I have been visiting the hospital where Dorah lived for a long time. Week after week I witnessed the children poisoned by paraffin, hit by cars and caught beneath the fallen security gates that fence so many South African homes. Some had eaten poisoned berries or mushrooms, or been severely scalded as boiling pots of water fell from the stove. There were infants with pneumonia and two-year-olds with diarrhoea so bad that they might die.

And the parents who bothered to visit left me unconvinced that they would care for their children more wisely once — or if — they returned home. One father stood there, clothes torn and filthy, making jokes about "tying a knot in it". He had a babe in the pushchair, another was being held in his wife's arms and two blonde toddlers — who had been burnt from shoulder to knee — lying in hospital cots. All four children were under the age of five.

More chastening still were the abandoned ones. The beaming, perfectly healthy baby boy whose mother had died of tuberculosis — no relative ever came to claim her son. The Zulu-speaking five-year-old who went blind after meningitis. The family who brought her in never returned. She lay there asking: "When is Mama coming? Why is she taking so long?" No one answered her.

One day I was walking in the ward and I saw a big boy crying. He looked at least ten years old. The nurses — caring, but too busy to do more than the rudimentaries — said "Oh, that's Wilson. He was hit by a car and he's not quite right." They tapped the side of their heads.

I was handing out books when Wilson called me. "Come here, please," he said. I walked to his bed. "Hug me, please," he said. I did. Then he said "Now turn round, please". When I did, he gently put his arms around my neck and his legs around my waist. As he clambered on to my back, Wilson said "Take me away, please". But I didn't. I couldn't. If I were to try to help one of them, which one would I choose?

> She likes to slide and swing, to stroke a dog or feel a fir-cone

Well, it would have to be Dorah. The ugliest duckling, the most beautiful swan. If you met Dorah, you would be scared. Or cry. Or think that she's too awful to look at. But she's not. She just doesn't have a face.

Dorah wasn't born like that. She was born bonny. By character she still is. They didn't want to treat her at Baragwanath, the biggest hospital in the southern hemisphere, because they were so sure she would die. But Dorah is still alive and kicking. She has been fighting for survival against all the odds. A charred bundle delivered to the Far East Rand Hospital, no one but the little girl herself had faith that she could live.

It costs R500 a month (about £63 — or a month's wages here for a cleaner) to buy dressings for what is left of Dorah's eyes. She has a trust fund and there is some money to contribute to operations. But the wisdom, economic and medical, is to cut Dorah's eyes out.

Rob Douw, chief executive of African Merchant Bank and a Scot by birth, this week has offered to help to fund the cost of a carer for Dorah. "We are touched by her plight and want to help."

Plastic surgeons have studied her photographs. Dorah's case has been discussed on the Internet. And while they think that they can make her an aesthetically pleasing false nose and eventually imitate muscle to give her fake lips that will allow her a better range of speech, everyone has given up on the eyes.

Dr Leonard Pott, an anaesthetist and one of the medical specialists involved in Dorah's case, supports the removal of her eyes for medical and logistical reasons.

To some extent the problem is money, he concedes, but his main concern is that the home where Dorah lives does not have the staff to spend more than an hour a day dealing with her dressings. The staff are unhappy at the pain Dorah suffers when the dressings are changed.

"The problem with the dressing necessary to keep the eyes moist is that some sort of adhesive has to be attached to the skin," says Dr Pott. "It is airtight, it pulls, it hurts to take it off and it itches to leave it on. It has to be on quite tight as the area is a high-risk site of infection. Dorah has already had low-grade infections in the area."

Dorah had no eyelids, and attempts to make some flaps from her skin to do the same job have so far failed because there was not enough tissue. The skin that remains on the surrounding area is scar tissue and has little blood flow.

"They would need to move the skin with its artery; it needs a pedicle, or root," Dr Pott explains. "The skin of the eyelid is fed with blood from the top. It would die off without a blood supply. It also needs to be able to open and close."

If a way could be found to reconstruct Dorah's eyelids, it would be possible to give her a corneal transplant. "If you can get help for Dorah from overseas, we would look at other options," says Dr Pott. "If anyone in Europe knows of appropriate artificial means to construct eyelids, we would like to know. We have models, photographs that we could send to them.

"Dorah has plenty of personality. She has a lovely character. She was neglected for quite a long time but then she was given intensive occupational therapy. Initially there was a big surge of improvement, but this was not sustained. There are strong reasons to take Dorah's eyes out. If we're wrong, we'll stand corrected. We don't know what else to do."

Yet if you play with Dorah you know that she uses her eyes. She shades them from the sun, or from candle flames at Christmas. Light and dark are a part of her world and she uses what is left of her sense of sight to understand and learn.

By most definitions, Dorah is blind. But if any one of us had a choice between knowing whether it was night or day, or being plunged into permanent darkness, we would certainly opt for the former.

I took a radio journalist to Dorah's third birthday party and her sweet laugh was heard across South Africa's airwaves. But I cannot take a television crew because viewers are too accustomed to the Barbie-doll-cute to cope with Dorah.

But I wish they would. Because for a little girl who can hear, taste, touch, smell and sing, the shades of light and dark are as vital as all the other senses for her vision of the world. The lack of a nose has not removed her ability to sense smells. Take away her eyes, and this child will be in the dark for ever. I do not believe she can afford to lose even one sense as she grows into her uncertain future.

Everywhere in the world, the abled and the disabled are kept apart. And in South Africa there are so many calls on state time and money that a child like Dorah is considered lucky just to get tender loving care. There is no money for a dedicated therapist to stimulate her senses.

Dorah now lives among mentally disabled children in a Catholic institution. She is as bright as a button. She loves music and tickles and running blades of grass between her toes. With a little help, Dorah can catch a ball and play pony by riding on the back of another child. She likes to slide and to swing, to stroke a dog or feel the strange shape of a fir-cone. Linking cause and effect, she pushes the keys of an electronic keyboard and sings the notes. Wider keys would suit her stumps better.

Like a phoenix, Dorah came through the fire. She is probably the most badly burnt person to survive such an ordeal. Now her future is a vision of anguish, looking into darkness. Surely some doctor must have the skills gained in a forgotten war or industrial accident that can rebuild the skin and bone around Dorah's face and let a three-year-old keep her eyes? In wiser words than I can pen, I urge: "Do not go gentle into that good night / Rage, rage against the dying of the light." I don't write this as a doctor. I write as one who knows Dorah.

● *Donations to help Dorah can be sent to Victor de Gray, Barclays Premier, 16 Rose Lane, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2UR, or paid into any bank to account 30299065, sort code 20-17-92. Cheques should be payable to A Charity Appeal Fund for Dorah Moekena. Bronwen Jones can be contacted by e mail: riuafrica@icon.co.za*

Best ways to kill or cure a hangover

MEDICINE CHEST
DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

THE more the Christmas party season becomes established the greater the number of absentees from the café that serves breakfasts. Those who are there seem to prefer coffee to their usual eggs on toast.

For many people, indigestion, with or without a hangover, is the inevitable price of late nights, rich food and rather more than the regulatory half bottle of wine. If the absent breakfast eaters had only managed some porridge or cornflakes with sweetened tea they would have had just what is needed to have made the office day tolerable.

A well planned evening may avoid any necessity of raiding the medicine chest on returning home, or of avoiding breakfast next day. The preparation for an evening party should start with a good lunch, followed by a glass of milk, some cream or bread dipped in olive oil. Fats before drinking may not only reduce the rate of absorption of alcohol but could also prevent an attack of gout. Alcohol is particularly apt to precipitate gout if the drinker is starving before he starts at the bar.

Eating the fattier foods on offer at a party, even if it only means wolfing the smoked salmon sandwiches, delays stomach emptying and therefore alcohol absorption. Alcohol is absorbed faster from the first part of the intestine than through the stomach, so that the longer it stays there the less quickly the blood-alcohol level rises.

Relax and be cheerful at a party. Research published last year showed that people who were in a good mood while they were drinking were very much less likely to have a hangover than those who had been tense and grumpy throughout the evening.

A hangover is the result of transient damage to the nerve cells which cause a swelling of the brain, thereby contributing to the headache. Drinking also induces a low blood sugar, and it is the hypoglycaemia which causes the sweating and the tremor, and is also a factor in the headache.

The severity of the hangover depends on the type of drink as well as the quantity of alcohol taken, whereas drunkenness is only dependent on the amount of alcohol.

Rich food, alcohol and tension all tend to cause inflammation of the lining of the stomach and intestine and the result may be nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea.

Once home those who have dined too well should drink at least a pint of water and take some antacids, possibly combined with a painkiller. The standard preparations include those made of sodium bicarbonate or their main constituent may be bismuth, aluminium or magnesium salts.

In anticipation of a possible headache, many recommend a combination of paracetamol and sodium bicarbonate such as Alka Seltzer or Resolve.

Even a rich meal taken at night with only a modest amount of alcohol causes reflux oesophagitis, heartburn and acid rash. Gaviscon, which floats like a soothing antacid raft on the stomach contents, offers great relief. People who are inconvenienced by the indigestion caused by reflux find that their life can be revolutionised by the taking of one or more of the proton pump inhibitors, such as Losec, Protium or Zoton. Zantac and Tagamet are almost as efficient, and it is claimed that both are not only good at settling stomachs but may even prevent a headache in those people who are sensitive to some red wines or other dark drinks. In these cases, it is recommended that Tagamet is taken before drinking.

MORNING after coffee shouldn't be substituted for breakfast as it is a gastric irritant. In some cases, more drastic treatment is needed. Antacids and paracetamol can prove inadequate. Imodium to still the gut, and Maxolon to reduce nausea can be very effective.

This combination once enabled a very senior politician with whom I was travelling to look reasonably relaxed throughout a long meeting with the head of state of our host country, and it spared the politician the shame of having to make an undignified rush to the presidential lavatory.

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هكذا من الأصل

Paula – like mother, like daughter?

A penchant for selling her story to the highest bidder seems to be a trait that Paula Yates has inherited from her mother, says Celia Brayfield



REX FEATURES

Paula Yates: the vacillating needle of public sympathy is pointing her way but the media are shedding no tears

I remember having a conversation with Paula Yates in a pub in Chelsea round about the time she met Bob Geldof. She was working as a cleaner for one of my friends, who ran a funky employment agency at the World's End and recalls her as a fetching little thing but inclined to stand in the bath (fully clothed) while cleaning it. One day Paula was dispatched to scrub for the Boomtown Rats, Geldof's band, and the rest was history.

Having found out that I was a journalist, Paula wanted my advice on using the media to attack her mother, saying that she hated her mother and wanted to sell the story of what a ghastly person she was to the *News of the World* or *The Sun*. I advised her to forget the whole thing, because the story was likely to make her look a bit of a cow.

Paula's outstanding gift is for redesigning her past, so I doubt that she remembers my advice, let alone wishes that she had taken it. At the time it was a bit like talking to a wall, because she was so consumed by blind, self-dramatising, adolescent hatred of her parents. It was more like trying to reason with Harry Enfield's "Kevin" character than with a nascent megagroupie flashing her first tattoo.

I got the idea that her parents' worst crime was being more famous than she was at that point. I, being 14 years older than Paula, reckoned she would grow out of it. On that point, it seems, I was definitely wrong.

Right now, the vacillating needle of public sympathy is pointing Paula's way. Losing a lover, Michael Hutchence, a man well placed in the rock pantheon and the father of her youngest child, is reckoned to be a trauma that trumps the plastic bosom and earlier episodes of ex-wife witchiness, such as chucking rocks through Bob Geldof's window. It also obliterates the shadows of doubt surrounding Hutchence's sudden death.

Finding out that your biological father is the oleaginous talent-show host Hughie Green and not the man you knew as Dad also appears to be an acceptable claim on the heart of the average *Hello!* reader – although it is doubtful whether any reader under the age of 40 appreciates quite how gruesome the Hughie Green legacy really is.

In the media, however, no tears are being shed and Paula is still on the Faustian blacklist of celebrities, famous for being famous, whose response to any life event is to sell the story to the highest bidder.

"She deserves everything she gets," said the columnist Richard Littlejohn this week on LWT's new newspaper-based show, *The Sundays*. The audience, however, oohed and aahed for Paula as though she were an orphan kitten on *Pet Rescue*.

In treating what anyone else would call a private life as her act for the media circus, Paula seems to be a chip off the despised old block. The first response of her mother, the former showgirl Heller Thornton, to the revelation that her former husband, the disgraced television show host Jess Yates, was not Paula's father, was to say that she needed her agent's advice on placing the story of her own heartbreak.

The most depressing thing about the drama of Paula's genetic heritage is that all the protagonists are so tacky. Yates and Green were so vulgar that they would have been at home on cable TV today. Yates, by Paula's account, was unstable, but at least took the responsibility for bringing her up after her mother – as Paula claims – abandoned her.



Heller Thornton: shares daughter's love of limelight

Green, in the latest revelations, was a sexually incontinent megalomaniac. Thornton stands accused of putting her social life before the care of her infant daughter and taking Geldof's side in the divorce. "How can she be so cruel?" demands Paula, self-orientated as ever. The possibility that her mother may have genuinely believed Paula was Yates's child does not seem to have occurred to her.

Hating your parents is something that you are eventually supposed to get over. Usually, people do so once they have become parents themselves, as this tends to be a maturational experience. Paula has now crossed this life-passage four times in 13 years – with Fifi Trixibelle, Peaches, Pixie and Heavenly Hiraani Tiger Lily – but remains a *puella eterna*. Maybe the next stage – turning into the despised parent – will do the trick.

In yesterday's "heart-opening" to *The Sun*, she moans: "It gave me comfort to picture Jess and Michael jamming in Heaven ... now that's been tarnished and ruined." But her daughters have also lost a grandparent, by her own account a loving one.

The girls might prefer privacy – they deserve at least the right to *choose* privacy, rather than having notoriety thrust upon them in childhood. It can't be long before at least one of Paula's daughters hits the Kevin stage, renames herself Jane and decides she hates her mother. The difference, in this generation, is that people would understand.

Anjana Ahuja reports on men, pretty women and sex

Men and the 50 ways they justify their lovers



People are more malleable than health educators think

MEN, it transpires, will go to elaborate lengths to justify going to bed with an attractive woman. According to a study conducted by American scientists into risk perception, men who at first said they exercised caution when choosing a bedmate, radically changed their opinions when faced with an appealing prospect.

Hart Blanchon and Meg Gerrard, psychologists at Iowa State University, enlisted the help of 40 male undergraduates. The students were given information about nine women, such as the number of past lovers and whether condoms had been used. They were then asked to judge the risk of contracting a sexually transmitted disease or HIV. The men were led to believe that the women were at the same university.

Next, the psychologists put a photograph alongside each sexual history. The students were asked to imagine meeting her in a bar and returning to an apartment together, where it was clear that she wanted sex. In some cases, a brief description of her personality and hobbies was provided. The students were asked to rate her sex appeal and likeability, and reconsider her risk rating, in the light of this information.

THE more attractive the woman, the more the risk rating plummeted. Subjects were more likely to engage in high-risk sex if they had information which, in their eyes, justified their changed beliefs. For example, if the "target" had eight previous sexual partners but played the clarinet and enjoyed classical music, the students would revise their risk estimates downwards. There could be another explanation: perhaps men subconsciously believe that pretty women are less likely to be disease carriers.

Dr Blanton and Dr Gerrard said in *Health Psychology* that they found their results "disturbing". Their study, subtitled *There Must be 50 Ways to Justify a Lover*, used only photographs and imagery to induce sexual motivation.

"At no point were the participants led to believe that they would have the opportunity to interact with the targets, much less have sexual intercourse with them."

The experimental motivation used here was "weak in comparison to the one that occurs in the bedroom". They conclude that people are far more malleable than health educators think.

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Look Left and beware, Mr Blair

Anatole Kaletsky warns

Labour of a new coalition

It is more or less a law of political ecology that, however universal the popularity of a new Government, and however impregnable its parliamentary majority, opposition parties evolve to chip away its supporters and to create new subdivisions among its coalition of support. As a result, landslide elections which seem to confer a monopoly of power are almost invariably followed by equally dramatic electoral setbacks. These reversals of fortune remind hubristic politicians that the concept of a "natural party of government" is one which democracy abhors.

When Tony Blair's predictable landslide was followed by the more surprising disintegration of the Tories as a serious political force, it became difficult to imagine what realignment of British politics could possibly undermine the new Labour hegemony. For Labour to be unseated, even in ten years' time, somebody would have to come up with a plausible answer to the reassuring question that Mr Blair must chant to himself instead of counting sheep whenever he suffers a sleepless night: what political force could possibly challenge new Labour as Britain's natural party of government?

Even to think about this question so soon after the Labour triumph may be premature. But last week's fiasco over single-parent benefits, which will be followed in the new year by far bigger battles over disability benefits, child benefits and housing allowances, suggest the possibility of a very unexpected answer. The real opposition to Labour, could come from the Left, not the Right.

I am not suggesting that Mr Blair might be unseated by a shift to the Left. Voters are unlikely to move any further Left than they did at the last election, when the Tories were reduced to their lowest percentage of the popular vote since 1832. If anything, a modest drift back to the Right is more likely.

What, then, is the threat to new Labour? It is that voters will stay exactly where they are, but that Mr Blair will move so far to the Right that he leaves them high and dry, with nobody to carry out the policies they thought they were supporting in the last election. By the laws of political ecology, political factions will then realign to build coalitions around these disenfranchised voters until the point is reached when support for Government and Opposition is back roughly in balance. The outcome could be a free-market Labour Party, which is clearly of the libertarian Right, as in New Zealand, opposed on the Left by a coalition of social democratic Liberals and paternalistic "One Nation" Tories.

The Left in this context can be simply defined as the political direction that favours higher spending on welfare, education, health and other public goods, financed, if necessary, by higher taxes. The Right, by contrast, follows the guiding principle of the Thatcher and Reagan period: that government should bear down as far as possible on both public spending and taxes, at least as a proportion of national income.

Under this definition of political polarities, the possibility of a major realignment becomes clearer. First, it is notable that the last election produced a decisively left-wing outcome in this sense. Whatever Mr Blair may have said about his intentions on taxes and public spending, 86 per cent of voters (according to Gallup) believed that Labour *would* raise taxes. And given that the Liberal Democrats were absolutely explicit about their desire to raise taxes, 69 per cent of the electorate supported parties identified with higher tax.

How, then, does Mr Blair explain his refusal to give these voters what they expected and presuambly wanted? The Government's spending restrictions are tighter than any actually achieved by the Tories. To explain his tightfistedness, Mr Blair continually claims that "there is no money" and that "tough spending targets" have to be met.

But spending targets have no objective validity. They were set by a hated Tory Government. And the claim that the Government is short of money is refuted by the Treasury's own figures. Malcolm Bruce, the Liberal Democrat economic spokesman, has cleverly (and accurately) reinterpreted these to show a potential "war chest" of at least £50 billion available for a public spending or tax-cutting splurge in the last year of the Parliament.

Barring another episode of economic mismanagement comparable to the ERM disaster, large amounts of money should therefore be available by the end of the Parliament. This money could either be given away as tax cuts or spent on improving public services, even without any further cutbacks in welfare benefits, student grants, or other draconian reforms. And even if there were no extra money available, the Government would always have the option of raising taxes.

This is a point which the Liberal Democrats are starting to get across to the public. And even some Tories could join the attack on new Labour from the Left. Just as John Redwood was able to open a populist flank against John Major by promising to save cottage hospitals, William Hague could, if he were sufficiently nimble, attack new Labour on disability benefits (which, after all, increased massively under the Tories). He could also try to inoculate voters against the pre-electoral bribery planned for the second half of the Parliament.

Should the Government be allowed to slash public services today to accumulate a war chest for buying votes just before the election — especially if today's cuts irreparably damage established institutions or inflict hardship on those in greatest need?

In the years ahead, the Left in Britain — be they Liberal Democrats, Labour rebels or imaginative Tories — could certainly have an interesting story to tell.



"Hear me!" cried the Ghost. "My time is nearly gone."
—A Christmas Carol

Let Santa be child's play

Father Christmas is losing his role in innocent family fun to become a stooge for emotionally retarded adults

Family democracy is all very well, but we have been forced to take a firm line with the junior members this year. We have made it plain that their parents are not yet sufficiently mature to accept that they are too old for stockings. Just because your chick stays up later than you do and has Size 13 feet, we tell them, that is *no reason* for anybody to go round questioning Father Christmas.

Certain concessions may be made — there comes a stage when a mother must bravely face her duty to slip in a CD of *Slap My Bitch Up* among the tangerines and magic tricks — but otherwise this Santa's not for turning. They can be as cool and teenage as they like, but we shall go on putting sooty boot-prints and reindeer-chewed carrots by the fireplace, so there.

I confess this private soppiness to offset the fact that I am about to say some Scroogey things. Because there comes a point when even Mrs Soppy has to speak out against the drivelling infantilism advancing on the British Christmas. The latest example is the threat by a woman in Rochdale to sue Asda because her son pulled their Santa's beard and got an alleged smack. The employee says it was an accident and has now "asked to be relieved of Santa duties". The child has been given a large box of chocolates (let us hope for bearded men's sake that he does not get the wrong message here) but his mother is reported to have consulted a solicitor and considered litigation because her son is "heartbroken".

Bah, humbug. This brat is eight years old, not three. The beard-tugging was apparently caused by his confusion at having seen a town-centre Santa a few minutes earlier and being surprised to find another one in Asda. This forces me reluctantly to conclude that his mother is behaving foolishly. It is stupid to allow a child to walk around a modern British town centre under the delusion that every grimy red suit and cottonwool beard is the same mythic person. Any parent with any sense makes it perfectly clear from the earliest age that the real Santa is a nocturnal, magical, rarely spotted creature and that the harassed figures in shops, parties and Lions Club charity sleighs are just "helpers" — adults play-acting for the fun of it. Small children spend half their time dressing up as Batman and are therefore perfectly capable of grasping the concept of festive charade.

But there are far too many public Santas, anyway. A splendid American academic, Professor Jim Hoot, of the early childhood research centre at the school of education at Buffalo, New York, has studied his local shopping centre and pronounced that bringing small children to Santa's grotto can be a form of child abuse. The experience of being perched on the knee of a disguised stranger is distressing, especially when you can't see your parents. He reports cases of children panicking as they are thrust into the Santa's arms, and soberly suggests (God bless American academics) that when the child is under 18 months old the parent should sit firmly on Santa's other knee for reassurance.

A member of the local false-beard set confirmed Professor Hoot's view: "I remember times when I could feel the child just shaking in my arms," he said. And a store helper in one grotto where photos are taken said that the parents sometimes seem not to care whether the child is frightened or not. "They are brutal . . . it's like if they didn't get a picture they were going to beat the child."

It all gets clearer, does it not? We are the infantile ones, not the children. Before the age of commercial hype and emotionally retarded adults, the Father Christmas story and its international variants could take their proper place as a piece of affectionate family fun. It is good when parents give without taking any credit for it, and share in a sense of wonder and universal benevolence and saturnalian mischief ("He's bought you a My Little Pony? Eugh! I said I'd never have one of those things in the house, but oh well, since it's Santa . . . What's that? A whoopee cushion? Oh, the vulgar old man! Really!") It is a good joke, and in sane families is taken as such; the gradual dawning of the truth is accepted in good part by the children, who then graciously permit foolish, fond old parents to carry on well beyond the limit of reason.

Nor need such fantasy be expensive. Here is an extreme example: in his autobiography *Bare Feet and Tackety Boots*, Archie Cameron wrote of a painfully poor childhood on the Isle of Rhum before the First World War, and dwelt happily on the Christmas his parents made for their seven children. A bugle would sound in the distance when his father had "stepped out for a moment" on Christmas Eve: its sound rose and fell, as if aboard a passing sleigh.

The next day the stockings would bulge, mainly with coloured paper and only a few poor toys. But Archie Cameron's parents put spirited energy into proving that a magical person had called: "There would be perhaps a mutton bone, with quite a bit of meat on it, behind the door where 'he' had dropped it. An orange fallen from his bag, even a scone with plenty of butter and jam on it, and even a few rare sweets were found by my mother, who excitedly drew our attention to them. 'What a careless man he must be,' she would say, 'to pick up and drop these things as he rummaged about the house!' Somebody's trousers would be tied in a knot, so 'he' must have had a sense of humour. All these diversions quickly made us forget our disappointment over the missing toys, toys we had hoped for but never really expected . . ."

Cameron does not romanticise poverty, and nor should anybody. Yet he says firmly:

"We were not a bit envious of our friends' toys when we saw them in daylight; after all, anyone can hang a popgun on the end of a bed. There was nothing personal about that, but we had positive proof that 'he' had been in our house." "I do not believe in Santa Claus now," wrote the old man, "but I do believe in a father and mother who, during those anxious and frustrating times, made every effort to ensure that their children had all the thrills and beauty of the Christmas season." Magic had been carefully made, and made with a genuine understanding of children's needs and enjoyments: of the neurotic, spoiling, spending parents of today, how many of us can claim as much?

Something sinister and unpleasant is happening to Christmas: not just the oft-bewailed commercial profiteering, but a worse change. It is dramatised by stories of parents brutally thrusting their frightened infants onto the lap of a shop Santa just so they can get a sweet picture. It is apparent in the idiocy of a family's threatening to go to law because they pretend to think their child's "innocence is gone" because a stressed-out store employee in a false beard may or may not have given him a well-earned slap.

The difference is that today the adults — having abandoned the serious joy of the religious Christmas — in their immaturity and sentimentality are colonising the children's. We batten on images of "innocence" and mawkish fantasies of childhood perfection because we, the adults, are fearful and rudderless and disappointed and emotionally needy. Sometimes we take it too far. To upset your real child for the sake of a perfect picture of him with Santa is a perversion; to resent your real child for spoiling your pretty, perfect Christmas tableau is little better.

This is by no means a class matter. Plenty of the worst offenders are the most affluent: the people who spend fortunes dressing their unwilling children in velvet and tartan to pose round the tree for upmarket glossy magazines, who lavish absurd largesse on babies too young to care about anything but the box, who sleep all night outside toyshops to bag a Teletubby so that no hope shall ever be disappointed. Except, of course, the hope that your parents might stay around and play with you.

No: the more I think about it all the tackier this parental infantilism seems. I may even change my mind and allow a democratic vote after all on the Teenage Santa question. With luck, they will still let me have my way. Children are very mature about these things, unlike their parents.

Libby Purves

Your right to know — is it real?

Magnus Linklater finds Robinson's secrets still safe

My favourite story about open government is told by a former colleague who was in Washington researching a defence story. Having got lost in the Pentagon, he finally plucked up the courage to knock on an office door — and found himself confronting a five-star general. Before he could apologise and retreat, the general had ushered him to a seat, and announced: "So long as you're here, what can I tell you?"

It's hard to imagine anything similar happening at our own dear Ministry of Defence. But if last week's White Paper on freedom of information means what it says, all that is going to change. "Experience overseas consistently shows the importance of changing the culture through requiring 'active' disclosure," it says at one point, "so that public authorities get used to making information publicly available in the normal course of their activities."

This has a fine ring to it. The timing, however, is a little unfortunate. It comes just as a Treasury minister finds himself having to adopt the familiar tactic of suppression rather than disclosure in the face of an embarrassing story which shows every sign of spiralling out of control. Close reading of the White Paper, titled *Your Right to Know*, suggests that details of Geoffrey Robinson's financial affairs would, in fact, be protected under the terms of any new Act. Chapter Four specifically refers to the need to defend individuals from "unwarranted invasion of personal privacy".

On the other hand, any exchanges of correspondence with the Treasury could well be accessible as public documents, together with details they might contain of Mr Robinson's offshore trust. Public interest is cited as a balancing factor to personal privacy, and the independent commissioner to be set up to hear appeals can call for any documents he wants.

This emphasis on openness as the guiding principle is emphasised throughout a remarkably radical White Paper. It challenges British attitudes which have become deeply ingrained in local councils, in police stations, on quangos and on statutory bodies. Can they be changed? It's hard to imagine Sir Humphrey telling a subordinate: "I don't care what the minister says, I want those briefing papers out on the Internet *now!*"

Converting the Sir Humphreys as well as the town hall bureaucrats is, however, the expectation. So far reactions to the White Paper have been favourable. To judge by the Campaign for Freedom of Information's checklist, it scores impressively well, at some points even going beyond the CFI's own recommendations. For instance, the campaign's "harm test", to be applied in the case of any exemptions (ie, would disclosure cause harm?), becomes "substantial harm" in the White Paper — a significantly tougher definition. The CFI argues for a "public interest override" to set against attempts to withhold information: the White Paper states baldly that the public interest "is an essential element in determining the right to know".

The exception — and it is a faintly depressing one — is the exclusion of the security services from any Freedom of Information Act. Given the sometimes maverick behaviour of Britain's intelligence agencies, it is hard to see why they should continue to be regarded as totally immune from scrutiny.

And how effective would the new proposals have been when applied to some of the *causes célèbres* of the past? The *Crossman Diaries*, which were eventually published in the teeth of Cabinet Office resistance in 1975, might easily have been suppressed under the present White Paper's terms. When it comes to Cabinet discussions, governments need "a degree of privacy", it says. The facts behind the sinking of the *Belgrano* could still have been secret because disclosure about operational matters may cause "substantial harm" to the national interest. And the Government could have withheld the famous DTI memo which led to the resignation of Leon Brittan during the Westland scandal, because to have released it would have been "random and premature disclosure of its deliberations".

All of these all took place during the Wilson and Thatcher Governments, both highly centralised and paranoid about leaked information. It was during those years that the Civil Service was declared virtually "off-limits" for journalists. It would be premature to suggest that this might also become true of Tony Blair, who has written the foreword to *Your Right to Know*, endorsing its campaign against "the perception of obsessive secrecy" and its "corrosive influence".

Yet, given Downing Street's attitude towards unfriendly elements of the media, and the insistence on discipline within the party, nothing suggests that freedom of information is a natural instinct among Mr Blair's team. It, too, will have to change if the aims of the White Paper are to be realised. The test for me will come when I confront a British general in his lair and he invites me in to riffle through his in-tray.

Journey's end

EMMA NICHOLSON, the Liberal grandette, is embroiled in a nasty dispute over the proceeds from *Katiza's Journey*, the book she collaborated on detailing allegations made by one of Winnie Mandela's former bodyguards. Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne agreed to co-operate with the author, Fred Bridgland, on the understanding that the profits would be split equally. Her share would be held in trust for Katiza Cebekhulu, the erstwhile bodyguard, whom she brought to England for safety in 1991 and who remains her ward. But Bridgland is claiming that Cebekhulu wants his money now, while Nicholson complains that she has been left out of pocket. The South African, who claims to have witnessed beatings and murders by Mrs Mandela and her supporters, disappeared just before her conviction for the kidnap and assault of Stompie Moeketsi. He soon re-emerged under Emma's protection. The book, for which Nicholson wrote the foreword, was published last month.



Fee foes: Winnie, Nicholson

With a possible lucrative film deal, Cebekhulu is said to be complaining of receiving only "pocket money" from Nicholson and is demanding the book's copyright. Bridgland says: "Katiza has told me that he plans to return to Africa, because he doesn't have enough money. If he doesn't get the proceeds, he can't make a go of things." Nicholson admits that she has fallen out with the author. "Katiza is quite comfortable," she says. "He has *not* said this to me. I find it very unfair, and difficult to understand. I have worked hard on his behalf — but the debts we have incurred looking after him exceed our proceeds from the book." South Africa seems quite tranquil by comparison.

● *DEAR Lord Irvine of Lairg may see himself (in jest, of course) as Cardinal Wolsey, but colleagues have a different perspective. It seems his love of writing — usually stiff notes of complaint — has earned him the sobriquet "Samuel Pepys", after that diarist's addiction to the written word.*

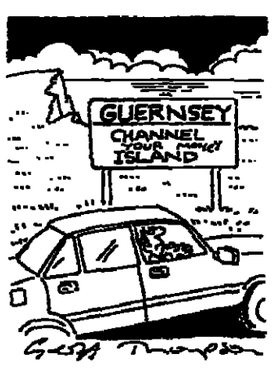
Let's party

NOT since the late Duke of Northumberland ravished Barbara Carrera on his banquette have spirits been so high at Syon House, in Richmond: his younger brother — quiet, retiring — threw a party for his daughter Katie, 15, on Saturday. Partying at Syon is not cheese straws and weak shandy: 120 of Katie's chums — Charlie (son of the Duke of Roxborough), Flora (daughter of Jeremy Soames), Edwina (daughter of Lord Palmer) — were greeted with buck's fizz on arrival before further depleting the duke's cellars. Parents kept a low profile. "We were told to keep out of the way."

● *MORE party news. The cast of* Hello! *— Ivana Trump, Isabel Kristensen — descended on Duns Castle, in Berwickshire, for a charity ball last night. Problem. There weren't enough beds. "We rigged up caravans," says a distressed organiser. "I took a group of 70 up on the train and I told them all to bring sleeping bags."*

Down the Tube

FOR a beefy performer, John Prescott's defence of Geoffrey Robinson was a shade wimpish. Why? Labour shakers say Prescott has had it in for Robinson since the millionaire MP absented himself from Labour's woes in the 1980s.



A ministerial turf-war over Tube privatisation has widened the split but the two have adopted uncharacteristic positions. Old Labour Prescott is fighting to sell off the London Underground, while offshore Geoffrey is keen to keep the Tube under public control. Ah, friendship. . .





CHEAP prints, cheap behaviour. Samantha Fox (above, right) one-time Page 3 habitué, wants to play Diana, Princess of Wales, in a forthcoming production. In an absurdist twist, Boy George has been shortlisted to play the Prince of Wales in the Bollywood Film. "The script starts with Diana's death in a crash and then there's a series of flashbacks," says Fox. "I'm keen to get involved but the fee's the problem." One problem, anyway.

● *A STRANGE replacement. Barbara Roche, Small Firms Minister, is to step into the shoes of Rod Stewart. The senior rocker was dumped as patron of the Royal British Legion (Muswell Hill branch) for rarely showing up and donating a measly £100 in four years. "Barbara will give us all the attention we need," says a legionnaire.*

JASPER GERARD

هكذا من الأصل

MINISTERIAL INCAPACITY

The Government is letting its case go by default

One of the hallmarks of a civilised society is that it helps those who are unable to care for themselves. In Britain, the disabled can rely on state benefits for support; in most developing countries, they are reduced to begging on the streets. To many Labour MPs, that is the end of the argument. It should, however, be only the beginning.

Those who question the increased burden on the State of sickness and disability benefits do not have hearts of stone. Claims of this type have risen faster than any other category — costing the taxpayer £23.5 billion last year compared with just £4.1 billion in 1982 — and the benefits now account for 27 per cent of the total social security budget. A moment's thought should find this odd: why, over a period when the nation has become healthier, should spending on sickness and disability have escalated?

The answer is that, for many, living on these benefits has become a substitute for taking early retirement or joining the ranks of the long-term unemployed on income support. Britain has a very low unemployment rate relative to other European countries, but it has more "disabled" people than it has claimants of official unemployment benefit. The teacher who leaves her job early, citing stress, may well end up on incapacity benefit, while claiming her occupational pension. Unlike jobseekers' allowance, the benefit is not time-limited, nor is it means-tested; though after a period, claimants have to be prepared to take a job other than the one they had before.

The rules for incapacity benefit were rightly tightened by Peter Lilley when he was Social Security Secretary. Now independent assessors, rather than claimants' own GPs, have to test the extent of the incapacity. And this Government has introduced home visits from a "benefit integrity project", to check that long-term claimants still deserve the array of benefits that they receive.

No one denies that those who are genuinely incapable of work and at risk of poverty should be supported by the State. It seems unlikely that the Government would want to penalise them. But there are many claimants of disability benefits who have other sources of income and could afford, say, to pay tax on any money they receive from the State. In 1994-95, 70 per cent of those claiming invalidity benefit or the severe disablement allowance were well-off enough not to qualify for income support. This compares with just 13 per cent of unemployed people and 35 per cent of lone parents. Yet most disability benefits are neither means-tested nor taxed.

Ministers could also justify exploring other ways of financing a safety net for the long-term sick or disabled. Only three months ago, the independent Social Security Advisory Committee, whose job it is to advise the Government, suggested that the burden of providing for sickness and disability could be shifted to employers, employees and private insurance plans. If the risks were spread among all employees of a company, the level of premiums would be affordable. Such an approach would abolish at a stroke the disincentives to return to work that are inherent in state benefits.

The case for reform is almost unanswerable. Yet, because the exact nature of the reforms has not yet been finalised, ministers have been parrying defensively, rather than going on the attack. If they do not fight back soon, their opponents will win by default. "Compassion with a hard edge" surely means helping those who need it, and encouraging self-reliance for the rest. There is nothing to be ashamed of in that approach: ministers should argue it with conviction.

STILL STALLING

Iraq cannot be allowed to obstruct UN inspectors

Less than four weeks after he had allegedly relented, Saddam Hussein is once more challenging the work of the United Nations Special Commission (Unscom) in Iraq. His public promise that those teams would be allowed to fulfil their mission in an unimpeded fashion has proved worthless. Richard Butler, the Australian who heads the UN effort, yesterday conducted another set of predominantly fruitless talks with Tariq Aziz, Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister. After that, Mr Butler offered a blunt and discouraging assessment of his progress. He had believed that his four-day mission to Baghdad this week would prove a "defining moment" in the relationship between Iraq and the outside world. That may turn out to be true but not for the reasons anticipated.

The central issue during the last dispute was the composition of the inspection units themselves. Saddam sought to remove all United States nationals from them. Some belated solidarity among the five permanent members of the UN Security Council did persuade the Iraqi dictator to withdraw that threat. It still remains his ambition to dilute the American presence. His failure on that front has now led Saddam back to familiar territory: the simple refusal to allow the UN access to areas of suspicious activity.

Iraq has, unilaterally, divided these into three categories: "normal" sites where external inspection is broadly tolerated but hardly assisted; "sensitive" sites where the UN may or may not be allowed to look; and "presidential" sites from which it is completely excluded. This, as Mr Butler has rightly argued, is in contradiction of the various Security Council resolutions that Iraq accepted at the end of the Gulf War and the pledge that it made to Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian Foreign Minister, last month.

This is only the most overt element in a continuing pattern of Iraqi obstruction. Mr Butler noted yesterday that he had learnt nothing new from Mr Aziz about Baghdad's biological weapons programme and was still uncertain about the extent of Iraq's VX nerve gas stockpiles. What Iraq has and where it is hidden remains, seven years after its initial invasion of Kuwait, a matter more of speculation than calculation. All available evidence is that Saddam Hussein is at least as dangerous today as he was before his forces were routed by the Allies.

It remains to be seen whether the UN Security Council will respond with any real vigour. Saddam has decided that he can afford to allow UN inspectors to stay in Iraq, but as little more than an inconvenience, while Russia, China and France continue their campaign to ease sanctions against him. Iraq will have realised that the United States and Britain are all but alone in their willingness to contemplate military action. That will have encouraged Saddam to continue with his chosen strategy of selective co-operation. He does not believe that sanctions will be tightened or airstrikes undertaken if his "palaces" — buildings that often resemble an industrial estate rather more than Versailles — remain inaccessible.

The United Nations must support its own commission. The Security Council should not alter the arrangements under which Saddam makes limited sales of oil — or consider other concessions — until inspection inside Iraq is ensured. If not, Unscom will be impotent. The UN has suffered in the past six months as certain countries have softened their stand on sanctions. Saddam must be convinced that at least some members of the international community still have the stomach to take him on.

WEDDING BLUES

No room at the crypt this Christmas for the passed-over

Last week Tony Blair discovered that huge majorities can create unexpectedly big headaches. This week William Hague is finding out what Kate Moss already knows, even a tiny rump can be too big sometimes. Although he has only 160-odd, some suggest very odd, MPs left to lead he still cannot invite them all to his wedding in the Commons crypt this Friday. Although a wedding in a crypt may seem as bizarre a conjunction of event and venue as a Yorkshireman at the Notting Hill Carnival, the Commons' own basement has been the traditional backdrop for many parliamentarians plighting troths and, in due course, when a boy or girl is born, christening the little Liberal or Conservative.

In choosing to marry in the bowels of Westminster Mr Hague and Ffion Jenkins are genuflecting in seemly fashion to tradition, just as they are by including on their wedding list that unfairly mocked utensil the fishknife. The fishknife is one bourgeois creation where the benefits are obvious rather than discretionary. It, like the Teasmade, combines efficiency with charm and as such is an entirely appropriate model for Mr Hague's new Toryism.

For all the symbolism of gift and crypt there will still be Conservatives inclined to dismiss the nuances of the wedding list because they did not make it onto the invitation list. It is a problem every couple face when the congratulations flood in after the announcement on the Court and Social page — many call but few can be chosen. If Mr Hague and his affianced had opted for a bigger church to accommodate their guests, Westminster Abbey perhaps, or St Paul's, then they might have been accused of delusions of grandeur. As Ffion well knows, social showiness is not the Welsh way.

A hilltop wedding might have been a Bardic compromise, allowing as many guests as possible to offer their best wishes under the vault of heaven. But lamely repeating the words dictated by a preacher while surrounded by sheep would have looked like a homage to new Labour. As with his stance on the single currency, so with his choice of wedding venue: having eliminated all the superficially attractive options only one course remains — and if some MPs object then that is unfortunate, but they will only look foolish if they go public with their complaints.

Nevertheless, as with the single currency, steps can taken to soften the blow for unhappy colleagues. Lord Parkinson has organised a party for all those MPs who cannot be fitted into the crypt — a feast for the passed-over. Perhaps a piece of wobbly chocolate wedding cake can be handed round all the non-invitees as an inclusive gesture — the disgruntled in the Tory party have grown used to making do with a constantly shifting fudge. Kenneth Clarke could take it with hard cheese and sour grapes. The rest of us will content ourselves with raising a glass to Ms Jenkins and Mr Hague and hoping that their honeymoon ends more sweetly than the Government's.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Crime Bill 'attack on civil rights'

From the Director of the Howard League

Sir, On December 16 the Crime and Disorder Bill will have its second reading in Parliament. It includes three significant changes to the criminal law which have not been publicly debated.

The antisocial behaviour order is vague and could be used against people who are simply different. Local councils will have virtually unlimited discretion to seek highly restrictive orders using civil law procedures, leading to criminal penalties of up to five years in prison.

The detention and training order means that a child as young as 12 could be held in a youth prison, and the Home Secretary will have the power to reduce that to 10-year-olds. Girls of this age could go to adult women's prisons. The Government is ignoring the fact that in recent years some 35 teenagers have taken their own lives in prisons.

The Bill's abolition of *doli incapax* means that primary school age children will be treated the same as adults by the courts, expected to comprehend fully the implications of their actions and the court procedure.

This Bill could turn out to be one of the most sweeping attacks on civil rights this century, resulting in a dramatic use of prison custody for children and anyone identified as different and difficult.

Yours faithfully,
FRANCES CROOK,
Director,
The Howard League for Penal Reform,
708 Holloway Road, N19 3NL.
December 11.

'Two-flag' Gibraltar

From Mr Mike Gilbert

Sir, Many years ago, when in a position of overwhelming strength, Britain twisted a foreign power's arm and took a small piece of their land purely for military reasons. In a more enlightened age we cannot face up to our responsibility to hand back Gibraltar, even though it rightly belongs to a democratic monarchy, an economic partner and a military ally.

There are difficulties but they are not insurmountable, and the population of Gibraltar may find, as thousands of expatriate Brits have found, that modern Spain is not such a bad place to live. The Spanish regions have a considerable influence over their destiny, economy and culture.

Those in favour of British sovereignty may say that to return Gibraltar to Spain would ignore the wishes of the Gibraltarians — a people who are of Spanish descent and who speak a Spanish dialect.

We recently handed back Hong Kong in the face of the prophets of doom, and that was to a belligerent dictatorship with, from our point of view, an appalling human rights record. It seems OK so far.

Tony Blair and Robin Cook (letter, December 11) should actively be seeking an accommodation with Spain to get the best deal for Gibraltar and give it back, despite the "little Englander" voices of Michael Howard and George Young (letter, December 10).

Yours faithfully,
M. S. GILBERT,
16 Brockley Road,
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mike.gilbert@virgin.net
December 11.

Hong Kong tourism

From the Executive Director of the Hong Kong Tourist Association

Sir, While Hong Kong has its fair share of warts, like any other city, Jonathan Mirsky's report of December 4, headed "Bad manners and high prices hit tourist trade", is well below the belt.

His disparaging remarks about the local Cantonese community show scant appreciation of what makes Hong Kong the dynamic city it is today. As regards the cost of shopping, Mr Mirsky had only to ask any carrier-bag laden tourist, let alone a local resident, to discover the huge selection of bargain outlets from street stalls to brand-name warehouses. The Economist Intelligence Unit, in its annual survey of major cities, consistently finds Hong Kong to be the cheapest destination to buy a basket of luxury tourist items. The level of service in our hotels is second to none.

As local columnist Danny Gittings remarked in the December 7 issue of the *South China Sunday Morning Post*, Mr Mirsky's article "gave a uniformly one-sided picture of life in Hong Kong which most long-term residents would have difficulty recognising".

Yours faithfully,
AMY CHAN,
Executive Director,
Hong Kong Tourist Association,
11th Floor, Citicorp Centre,
18 Whitfield Road,
North Point, Hong Kong.
December 9.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046. e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

Hard choices needed to fund NHS

From Dr Ian Kunkler

Sir, You report today the Government's commitment in its White Paper on the NHS to provide an appointment with a cancer specialist within two weeks of a general practitioner deciding that an urgent appointment is needed.

This is a very reasonable objective. Increasingly, however, the first appointment is not with a single cancer specialist but at a multidisciplinary clinic, where the patient has the benefit of the opinion of all the relevant cancer specialists and of counselling from cancer nurses. Adequate time is required to discuss with each patient the treatment needed and its possible side-effects. Additional time is often needed to recruit patients to national and international trials to improve the results of current treatments.

A national network of cancer units based in district general hospitals linked to specialist cancer centres is being established to ensure uniformly high cancer care across the UK. To achieve this many more consultant cancer specialist posts are required. The number of new patients seen per oncologist in the UK is 560 a year, more than double that of Spain.

The Royal College of Radiologists has estimated that 290 clinical oncologists and 150 medical oncologists are needed to implement the 1995 Calman/Hine report on cancer services; and the recent joint report of the Cancer Research Campaign, King's Fund and Macmillan Cancer Relief calculates that by 2001 an additional 116 consultant posts in clinical oncology will be required to provide the additional 27,840 sessions needed. In addition 750 cancer nurses are required to staff the 150 cancer units and 420 for the 40 cancer centres. The resource implications for staffing and training are enormous.

The minister is rightly committed to improve cancer services. However, we have some way to go even to catch up with our European partners. Within a cash-limited NHS hard choices will have to be made between the development of cancer services and other competing claims for health resources. These choices need to be explicit and publicly debated.

Yours faithfully,
IAN KUNKLER
(Consultant in Clinical Oncology),
Western General Hospitals
NHS Trust,
Crewe Road, Edinburgh EH4 2XU.
December 10.

From Ms Heather Gage

Sir, Whilst the commissioning groups of GPs proposed in the NHS White Paper might seem to resemble staff model health maintenance organisations (HMOs) in the US in the sense that they both ration within a global budget, that is about as far as the parallel can be taken ("This takes us further down the American way", Peter Riddell, December 10).

Even the most frugal of HMOs provide an entirely different standard of service from that routinely delivered in the cost-contained NHS. The extra resources provide HMO enrolees with regular wellness care, customised screening and counselling, unhurried consultations, access to specialists, fast attention to ill-health, lower premature mortality from life-threatening diseases and a feeling that something is being done about a health problem rather than a feeling that care is being denied or delayed because it cannot be afforded.

But the whole health culture is different in the US. The average insured American is better informed about health issues, and much less deferential to providers than his British counterpart. And American practitioners never forget that their patients have (and exercise) choice in healthcare.

Managed care is now cost-effectiveness orientated and has introduced cost-conserving procedures, within the bounds permitted by the watchful and influential consumer groups. Beyond that, expenditures are demand-led; evidence of a willingness to pay that is not directly identifiable in the British system. Regulating standards, target-setting and "name and shame" tactics within the NHS can only ever be partially successful at improving quality, and are inadequate substitutes for the pressures that could be applied by an empowered patient population.

Yours sincerely,
HEATHER GAGE,
University of Surrey,
Department of Economics,
Guildford GU2 5XH.
December 11.

From Mr I. K. Whitehead

Sir, Two observations spring to mind on the Government's White Paper. The first is that one internal market is to be replaced by another, seeking to build on the first: it is not a dismantling of the old reforms.

The second is the unwieldiness of the new GP commissioning groups: decisions will be taken further away from the patients.

Hopefully there will be some fine-tuning in Parliament before the White Paper enters the statute book.

Yours sincerely,
IAN WHITEHEAD
(Adviser, Downing Street Policy Unit, 1988-90),
2538 Willow Way,
Sacramento, CA 95608.
everton@cwnet.com
December 10.

From Dr Clive Walker

Sir, When I started in general practice, some 20 years ago, the district medical committee would meet monthly. One of its members was a local GP. The district covered about 100,000 patients and the body to which the committee reported was called the North West Surrey District Health Authority.

Forgive me for a sense of déjà vu when I read about "new" commissioning bodies for groups of 100,000 patients.

Your sincerely,
CLIVE WALKER,
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Minorca Road,
Weybridge KT13 8DU.
cladwalk@intonet.co.uk
December 10.

Holocaust claims

From Mr W. D. Rothenberg

Sir, A small number of very elderly impoverished victims of the Holocaust have recently been able to claim very modest pensions from the German Government under what is known as the Claims Conference Article 2 Fund, the Hardship Fund. Impoverished Holocaust victims — and not others — are entitled to claim monthly payments and some have started to receive DM500 (say £170) a month.

Sadly, the poorest of these victims are now seeing the benefits from these payments flow straight to the British Government, as their social security benefits, ie, income support and council tax reductions, are clawed back. In at least one case, income support has been reclaimed for the previous six months on the ground that the hardship fund payments were backdated six months.

It is sad that when high officials from governments around the world have been meeting in London to discuss some of the wrongs done to Holocaust victims (letters, December 8), the poorest of them are seeing payments to which they should be entitled taken from them by the British Government.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID ROTHENBERG
(Vice-Chairman),
Association of Jewish Refugees,
1 Hampstead Gate,
1a Frognal, NW3 6AL.
December 12.

Christmas aisles

From the General Secretary of the National Secular Society

Sir, The investors and staff of Asda plc (report, December 8, letter, December 10) did not join the organisation to proselytise on behalf of a religion. They and customers should object to a plc mounting this inappropriate (and to some offensive) rite in a multicultural society in which the majority are not practising Christians.

Yours sincerely,
K. PORTEOUS WOOD,
General Secretary,
National Secular Society,
Bradlaugh House,
47 Theobalds Road, WC1X 8SP.
December 11.

Britannia's future

From Mr Jonathan West

Sir, Lord Callaghan of Cardiff (letter, December 11) may well wish to see *Britannia* scrapped rather than saved. No doubt, like Princess Anne, he fondly remembers many fine times spent on board, all, one assumes, at taxpayers' expense.

Like many others I would like the chance to look round the ship: perhaps its upkeep may not quite meet the earlier high standards but, unlike Lord Callaghan, I would not be in a position to compare.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN WEST,
60 St Aldates, Oxford OX1 1ST.
December 13.

Male bonding

From Mr Robert Philp

Sir, Paul Hoggart's somewhat improbable comparison (Magazine, December 6) between James Bond (new-style) and Tony Blair is given added interest by the fact that Bond and Blair attended the same school.

It is reasonably well known that Tony Blair went to Fettes, but in *You Only Live Twice* Ian Fleming records that Bond started at Eton but, after "some alleged trouble with one of the boys' maids", his aunt managed to obtain his transfer to Fettes, his father's old school. Here the atmosphere was somewhat Calvinistic, and both academic and athletic standards were rigorous.

The early application of rigour can clearly work wonders in one direction or another.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT PHILP,
61 Inverleith Place,
Edinburgh EH3 5QD.
December 6.

Questions of safe haven for babies

From Ms Philippa Tudor

Sir, Virginia Hume suggests (feature, December 10) that "the upshot of the baby Karli affair will be that many more women going into hospital to have babies will be terrified that somebody might come into their room in the middle of the night and take their newborn away from them". Having experienced this myself at one of the great London teaching hospitals, my own concern has been that women are not made aware of this possibility.

Fortunately our daughter, who had been taken by a woman whose own baby was in the special-care baby unit, had been abducted no further than the midwives' staff room, and the only apparent ill-treatment she had suffered was being fed formula milk. But the horror of waking in hospital to see the empty cot by my bedside has made me acutely aware that, despite my having been under the care of a brilliant consultant and equally brilliant anaesthetist, a newborn baby is only as safe as its surroundings. For my newborn daughter, hospital was not a safe haven.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIPPA TUDOR,
121 Narbonne Avenue, SW4 9LQ.
December 10.

From Dr B. P. Guratsky

Sir, I reckon that no more than one baby per year is abducted from an NHS maternity unit: typically, it will be missing for no more than a few hours and will come to no lasting harm.

Extrapolating from local costs I also reckon that security equipment in maternity units over the entire NHS consumes well over £1 million per year, not allowing for staff costs or for the delays suffered by staff attempting to go about their business.

Priorities for spending money should be based on the actual degree of risk, not the degree of media excitement.

Yours sincerely,
B. P. GURATSKY,
42 Graham Road,
West Kirby, Wirral L48 5DW.
December 6.

Home births

From Dr Richard Freeman

Sir, I heartily support the sentiments expressed in Sarah Johnson's article, "Safe, secure — and satisfying" (December 10). Our third child was born at home 16 years ago. It was only allowed because the mother contracted mumps two weeks before delivery and was too infectious to be allowed near a hospital.

Home births are an excellent way of introducing the newborn to its siblings. But, of course, only if everything is normal. The risks involved with home deliveries become much higher if intervention is required; and the trauma this may induce amongst the rest of the family, not to mention the mother, has to be recognised.

Yours etc,
RICHARD FREEMAN,
101 Castle Street,
Saffron Walden CB10 1BQ.

From Mr P. R. Ridgway

Sir, I was interested in the article promoting the benefits of birth at home, including the greater sense of continuity and family ties.

I too was born at home, in the same house where my mother had been born. Unfortunately the adjoining property has since expanded, and when I now point out to my children my birthplace, it is located in the saloon bar of the Fox and Goose.

Yours sincerely,
PHIL RIDGWAY,
27 Naverne Meadows,
Woodbridge IP12 1HU.
December 10.

Blair's travels

From Dr D. G. Guild

Sir, With the Kyoto summit still in progress at the time, one would have thought that the Prime Minister could have found some more positive affirmation of his beliefs than the new logo which, as I understand, is to disfigure a Eurostar train (report, December 6).

Mr Blair could show that his devotion to a green future is more than "spin". When he goes to Brussels he could travel by Eurostar rather than by air.

Air travel has a high pollution content, higher even than road. And he might find that, given the short distances involved, he might get from the centre of London to the centre of Brussels as quickly as by air.

Yours faithfully,
D. G. GUILD,
53 Grange Road,
Edinburgh EH9 1TX.
December 8.

Bones of contention

From Mrs Julia Pike

Sir, At midnight the Nanny State will truly have arrived: we will all have to have our meat cut up for us.

Yours faithfully,
JULIA PIKE,
Brasses Farm, Ewhurst Green,
Robertsbridge TN32 5RH.
December 15.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

December 15: The Queen this evening attended the Home-Start UK Carol Service at the Guards Chapel, *Wellington Barracks, London SW1.*

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron, Outward Bound Trust, this afternoon gave a Lunch for the Outward Bound Patron's Company at Frogmore House, Windsor Home Park.

December 15: The Princess Royal, Patron, Northern Lighthouse Board, this morning attended a meeting of the Management Committee at 84 George Street, Edinburgh.

Her Royal Highness this afternoon opened a new building at the Scotch Whisky Research Institute, Heriot-Watt University Research Park, Riccarton, Edinburgh, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Edinburgh (Mr Eric Milligan, the Rt Hon the Lord Provost).

ST JAMES'S PALACE

December 15: The Prince of Wales this afternoon received Mr Alun Michael MP (Minister of State, Home Office).

His Royal Highness, President, the Bach Choir, this evening held a Carol Concert and Reception at St James's Palace.

The Prince of Wales, President, later attended the film première of *Spice*, in aid of The Prince's Trust at the Empire Cinema, Leicester Square, London WC2.

ST JAMES'S PALACE

December 15: The Duke of Kent this afternoon visited Johnson Controls Automotive (United Kingdom) Limited, Oakham Business Park, Mansfield, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire (Sir Andrew Buchanan, Bt)

His Royal Highness later visited Ericsson Mobile Communications Limited, Lawn Road, Carlton-in-Lindrick, Worksop, Nottinghamshire.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE

December 15: Princess Alexandra, Patron, this evening attended a "Celebration of Christmas" in aid of the Mental Health Foundation at Guildhall, London EC2.

Royal engagements

The Prince of Wales, President, Business in the Community, will host a seminar at St James's Palace at 10.00 with business leaders who attended his Autumn 1997 Seeing is Believing Programme.

The Princess Royal, Patron, the Butler Trust, will visit HM Prison *Woodhill, Milton Keynes*, at 10.30; will open Parmiter's School Sports Centre, High Elms Lane, Garston, near Watford, at 12.45; as President, The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, will visit Hertfordshire Carers Centre, Church Street, Ware, at 2.40; and as President, Save the Children Fund, will attend the Festival of Trees gala dinner, Natural History Museum, at 7.50.

The Duke of Gloucester will attend a presentation of *The Story of Christmas* at St George's, Hanover Square, at 7.20 in aid of Drugs in School Helpline and the Wessex Children's Hospice Trust, and will attend a reception at the Wallace Collection, Manchester Square, at 8.40.

The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, Parkinson's Disease Society, will attend a Christmas Carol concert, St Marylebone Parish Church, at 6.30.

Princess Alexandra will attend *Joy to the World* a Christmas celebration, Albert Hall, at 7.15.

Service dinner

Combined Cadet Force Association

Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Johns, *Chief of Air Staff, was the principal* guest at the annual Officers' dinner of the Combined Cadet Force Association, held last night at the Imperial Hotel, London. General Sir Geoffrey Howlett presided. Major-General A.M. Keeling, Major-General P.C. Shapland and Air Vice-Marshal P.J. Harding were among those present.

Fettes College, Edinburgh

The Governors of the Fettes Trust are pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Michael Spens as Headmaster of Fettes College, Edinburgh, with effect from September 1998, to succeed Mr Malcolm Thyne following his retirement. Mr Spens was a Housemaster at Radley College, Oxfordshire, between 1984 and 1993 including the post of Senior Housemaster for the last two years, since when he has been the Headmaster of Caldicott School, Farnham Royal, Buckinghamshire.

Carol service

The Manorial Society of Great Britain

The Manorial Society of Great Britain held its carol service last night at Temple Church, London. Canon J. Robinson, Master of the Temple, officiated, assisted by the clerk to the society, the Rev J. Goodden. The choir was led by Dr Stephen Layton and the Fanfare Trumpeters of the Royal Artillery were directed by Major G.A. Kingston. The Lessons were read by: Lord Sudeley, Sir Colin Cole, Sir Richard Hanbury-Tenison, Lord-Lieutenant of Gwent, Mr J.A. Finnis, Mr C.R. Humphery-Smith, and Mr P. Jennings. A dinner was held later at Inner Temple Hall. Mr Robert Smith, chairman of the society, presided.

Elections

Inner Temple

Sibghatullah Kadri, QC, and Robert Webb, QC, have been elected Masters of the Bench of the Inner Temple.

Today's birthdays

Mr J.M. Blackburn, chief executive, Halifax Building Society, 56; *Mr N.C. Blamey, artist, 83;* Sir Michael Carlisle, former chairman, Trent Regional Health Authority, 68; Mr Arthur C. Clarke, *science writer, 80;* Her Hon Myrella Cohen, QC, 70; Professor Bernard Crick, author, 69; the Hon Peter Dickinson, author, 70; Mrs Jacqueline Duncan, Principal, Inchbald School of Design, 66; Mr Joel Garner, former cricketer, 45; Sir Robert Gunn, former chairman, The Boots Company, 72; Miss Heather Hallett, QC, 48; Sir Jasper Hollom, former Deputy Governor, *Bank of England, 80;* Mr John Kirwan, rugby player, 33; Miss Jacqui Lait, MP, 50; Lord Mottistone, 77; Mr Trevor *Pinnock, harpsichordist and* conductor, 51.

Lieutenant-General Sir David Scott-Barrett, 75; Mr N. Shibata, chairman and chief executive, Gestemer Holdings, 59; Miss Liv Ullmann, actress, 59; Mr W.H.P. Whatley, trade unionist, 75; General Sir Roger Wheeler, 56.

ANDRÉ CAMARA



Hot-blooded Cuban dancers from the Club Tropicana in Havana faced a chilly December day in London yesterday as they prepared for their show at the Albert Hall next year. This will be the first time the 30 dancers, the 20-piece band and their show have been seen outside Cuba since the club was founded in 1939

Luncheons

American Chamber of Commerce (UK)

The American Ambassador was the guest of honour at a Christmas luncheon of the American Chamber of Commerce (UK) held yesterday at the London Hilton on Park Lane.

Sir Brian Goswell, president, was in the chair.

To Mr Christopher Fry

The Lord-Lieutenant of West Sussex and Lady Ward attended a luncheon held on Sunday at the Minerva Theatre Restaurant, Chichester, to mark the 90th birthday (December 18) of Mr Christopher Fry. Mr Tony Britton and Mr Fry were the speakers. The luncheon was held under the auspices of the Chichester Festival Theatre, the Pallant House Gallery and the Keats Club.

Rotary Club of London

Mr David Beeton, Chief Executive of Historic Royal Palaces, was the speaker at a luncheon of the Rotary Club of London held yesterday at the Portman Hotel. Mr Clifford Charles, president, was in the chair.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Ludwig van Beethoven, composer, Bonn, 1770; Jane Austen, novelist, Steventon Rectory, Hampshire, 1775; Sir Noël Coward, playwright and composer, London, 1899.

DEATHS: Wilhelm Grimm, collector of folk tales, Berlin, 1859; William Somerset Maugham, novelist and playwright, Nice, 1954.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr M.N. Day and Miss S.C. Giddins

The engagement is announced between Matthew, younger son of Mr and Mrs R.K. Day, of Comberbach, Cheshire, and Susan, daughter of Mr and Mrs L.T. Giddins, of Warborough, Oxfordshire.

Mr C.H.G. Dunster and Miss A.J. Westlake

The engagement is announced between Charles, younger son of Mr and Mrs Francis Dunster, of Maidenhead, and Annabel, younger daughter of the late Dr David Westlake and of Dr Daphne Westlake, of Gerrards Cross.

Mr C.P. Hughes and Miss C.R. Larard

The engagement is announced between Christopher, elder son of Mr and Mrs Paul Hughes, of Hedley, Stocksfield, Northumberland, and Rebecca, only daughter of Mr and Mrs John Larard, of Elloughton, East Yorkshire.

Dr A.C. Martin and Dr R. Alakeson

The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs David Martin, of Ashtead, Surrey, and Renuka, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Harold Alakeson, of Wimbledon, London.

Mr R.J.V. Hughes and Miss A.E. Matza

The engagement is announced between Richard, only son of Dr and Mrs G.R.V. Hughes, of Chislehurst, Kent, and Amy Elise, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs E. Matza, of Hastings on the Hudson, New York.

Mr O.M.W. Lyell and Miss J.M. Fuller

The engagement is announced between Oliver, elder son of Sir Nicholas and Lady Lyell, of Markyate, Hertfordshire, and Justine, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Fuller, of Sutton-by-Dover, Kent.

Mr N.J. Roberts and Miss R.A. Coleman

The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Mr and Mrs Alan Roberts, of Billericay, Essex, and Rachel, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Coleman, of Dundalk, Co Louth, Republic of Ireland.

Mr J.D. Welchman and Miss N.C. McKeag

The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs Dillon Welchman, of London, and Nicola, younger daughter of Mr Hugh McKeag, of Jakarta, and Mrs Helen McKeag, of London.

Dinners

Cardiff Business Club

The Chairman of Cardiff Business Club, Mr Brian K. Thomas, the Lord-Lieutenant for South Glamorgan, Captain N. Lloyd Edwards, the Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Gill Bird, and the High Sheriff of South Glamorgan, Mr J.W. Phillips, were present at a dinner held by the Club at the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff last night. The guest speaker was Mr Dong-Jin Choi, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea. Mr David Rowe-Beddoe, Chairman, Welsh Development Agency, presided.

Wheelwrights' Company

The new Master of the Wheelwrights, Mr William Bolt, presided at the Installation Dinner of the Wheelwrights' Company held on Thursday, December 4, at Carpenters' Hall. Sir Leslie Fielding, KCMG, Mr Deputy G.A.G. Pulman, JP, Deputy Governor of the Honourable Irish Society were the principal guests. Among others present were:

The Master of the Masons' Company, Mr P.A. Copland, the Master of the Coachmakers & Coach-Harness Makers' Company, Mr R.G. Croall and the Master of the Woolmen's Company, Mr R. Johnson, also attended.

The Sovereign's Parade: Royal Military Academy Sandhurst

General Sir Roger Wheeler represented the Queen at the Sovereign's Parade at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst on December 12.

The following have been granted commissions in the Regiments and Corps shown, having successfully completed Commissioning Course No. 971: the Sword of Honour was won by Junior Under Officer I M Gardiner and The Queen's Medal was won by Officer Cadet G M Baldwin:

M J D Ackrill, AAC, Arden Sch, Solihull; J S Ambrose, Scots DG, Waterford Sch, Swaziland; C P M Anderson, RA, Rugby Sch; A J Atherton, RLC, St Aidan's C of E HS, Harrogate; R J Atkinson, RE, Glyn Sch, Ewell; J S Austin, RRF, Robert Pattinson GMCS, Lincoln; L P Ayo, Kings, Sir Roger Manwood's Sch.

G M Baldwin, RE, Frome College; G R Barber, RA, Batley GS; J B Barron, R Irish (HSFT), Millfield Sch; M A Bavin, Int Corps, Carres GS, Sleaford; M C Baxter, Cheshire, Cotswold Sch, Bourton; K Bennett, RE, Connah's Quay HS; H G C Bettinson, WG, Malvern College; D W N Bevan, WG, Eton College; T J Blower, AGC (ETS), The Clere Sch; M E Booker, RE, Northgate HS, Dereham; S P A Bourne, AAC, Bishop Wordsworth's Sch; S N Bradley, RE, Queen's College, Taunton; J T M Breckenridge, RRW, Bishop Llandaff Sch, Cardiff; A Bremner, REME, Morrison's Academy; O C C Brown, R Anglian, Brentwood Sch; R M Brown, RE, St Andrew's Sch, Worthing; R S Brown, KOSB, Earlston HS; R J Browne, RLC, Rontgen Sch, Berlin; E J Bruce, R Signals, Bell Baxter HS, Cupar; S A Buchanan, RLC, Morrison's Academy; J N E Buczacki, KRH, Warwick Sch; A J S Bunn, RLC, Laurence Jackson Sch; G R Burrows, LI, Welbeck College; J Butterfill, RRF, Colfes Sch; S E Cambridge, R Signals, Park House Sch, Newbury; A R G Cartwright, Gren Gds, Harrow Sch; S J Carvel, RE, Welbeck College; C P Casson-Crook, LI, Royal Alexandra Sch, Reigate; T H C D Channer, RHF, Ampleforth College; J E A Chestnutt, KOSB, Canford Sch; J J Chittock, PARA, Hounsdown Sch, Totton; D W A Clugston, RE, Oundle Sch; C M Coles, RWF, Sandbach Sch; C J Connolly, R Irish (HSFT), Gransha HS, Bangor, NI; P J Cooper, AAC, Liskeard Sch; A E A Corkery, R Signals, Bedford Sch; M D Cornwell, RRF, Whitgift Sch; E K Couper, RLC, Headington Girls' Sch, Oxford; M J Crinnion, R Signals, Canford Sch; D J M Curley, R Irish (HSFT), St Patrick's CS, Shannon.

N J Dale, PARA, Forest CS, Wokingham; C I Darwent, KOBR, Stonyhurst College; A R Davie, RLC, Langley Park Sch, Beckenham; G M Davies, RRW, Belmont Abbey Sch, Hereford; M A A Dornan, RA, Ellesmere College; C P Dowson, QRL, Cheltenham College; P R Driver, Kings, Stamford College; B A J Dunning, RLC, Welbeck College.

J Edwards, RLC, Welbeck College; N Eggert, RLC, Benham Sch, Lancaster; V D Ellis, RLC, Marr College, Ayr; C D P Evans, RTR, Dauntsey's Sch; G J-M Evans, RE, Monmouth Sch; D R P Eydes, KOSB, Glenalmond Sch.

D R Farrimond, R Signals, Clifton College; N E Farthing, REME, Woldgate CS, Pocklington; S J Ferguson, RLC, Cowes HS; J B J Fleetman, RGBWR, Gordano Sch, Portishead; A V Forsyth, QRH, Greshams Sch; C F Foster, RA, Cheltenham College; R J Franklin, RRF, RGS, Worcester; C D H Frisby, RRF, Dulwich College.

E J Gairdner, QRH, Worth Sch; R E Ganpatsingh, RGR, Brighton College; I M Gardiner, R Irish (HSFT), Grey HS, RSA; M R Genko, RLC, Welbeck College; P M George, AGC (ETS), Pates GS, Cheltenham; S J Gladwin, R Signals, Ruthin Sch; C P Goodwin Hudson, RGJ, Stowe Sch; R Graham, RA, Eastwood CS; E H Greasley, Int Corps, St Mary's Sch, Cambridge; D J Guest, Cheshire, King's Sch, Chester; S J W Gunson, R Signals, Cranbrook Sch.

P J Hale, R Signals, Matthew Arnold Sch, Oxford; D R Hall, RLC, Welbeck College; R J Hall, DWR, Elizabethan HS, Retford; E Hamilton-Green, AGC (SPS), Eggars Sch, Alton; M Hanlon, R Signals, Rye Hills Sch; M J Harris, RRW, Monmouth Sch; T J Harris, LI, Trinity Sch; A J Haynes, RLC, Comberton Village College; N J Hender, Gren Gds, Marlborough College; S R G Hill, AAC, Harrow Sch; R J Hobbs, R Irish, Castlebrae HS, Edinburgh; A M N P Howard, LG, Harrow Sch; A L Huins, AGC (ETS), Vienna International Sch; J A Humphreys, R Irish, Royal Belfast Academical Inst.

C S Ireland, REME, Honicknowle SS, Plymouth; N E James, R Signals, Cheadle Hulme Sch; C M Janes, RA, Ponteland County HS; A R G Jarvis, RE, Forest Sch; A S Johnson, R Signals, Fyling Hall Sch, Whitby; S A Johnson, PWRR, Tanbridge House Sch, Horsham; D R Jones, Staffords, Streetley Sch, Sutton Coldfield; J S Jones, R Signals, Darfield Foulstone Sch; N W Jones, RWF, Glanafan CS, Port Talbot; T L Jones, RLC, Welbeck College; O J Kingsbury, PARA, Turton HS, Bolton; B J Knox, Green Howards, Uppingham Sch.

M S Lawson, AGC (SPS), Rainford HS, St Helens; A J Layden, RA, Ampleforth College; S C Le Grande, RLC, Lutterworth GS; C J Leese, R Irish, Solihull Sch; S R Lumley, RE, The British Sch, Netherlands; C A MacDermot-Roe, Scots DG, Ampleforth College.

H A K Manwaring, KRH, Shrewsbury Sch; D J Matthews, PARA, Welbeck College; J F C Maxwell Stuart, SG, Ampleforth College; B E O Mayne, RTR, St John's Sch; J R Mayo, Cheshire, Royal Wolverhampton Sch; L C McCutcheon, RRF, King Edward's Sch, Birmingham; A J A McDougall, QDG, Anglican Church GS, Brisbane; R N McLeish, RS, Gleenalmond College; T S Meldrum, RA, Dr Challoner's Sch, Amersham; P J Messenger, R Anglian, Duke of York's RMS; C G Morgan, RA, Ash Manor Sch, Aldershot; D H Morgan, RLC, Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf; M J Morton, R Signals, Collingwood Sch, Camberley; P A Muncey, R Anglian, Ferrers Sch; G A Murphy, AGC (SPS), St Mary's College, Liverpool; J C Murray, AAC, Gordonstoun Sch; L K Murray, RA, Welbeck College.

S E Nasse, REME, Edenham HS, Croydon; S M Neville, RE, Welbeck College; A J Neylan, RA, Prior Park College; R H Noott, PWRR, Weston Park Boys' Sch, Southampton.

V P O'Brien, RE, Aylesbury Grammar Sch; J S Offer, IG, Wellington College; D J Orpin, RRF, Trinity Sch; S T G Otter, R Anglian, Bedford Modern Sch.

P M Packer, AGC (PRO), Eltham College; N J Parker, RA, Aldenham Sch; J Penney, LI, Stratford upon Avon HS; M D A Perry, RE, Collingwood Sch; I J S Peters, AAC, Blundells Sch; J C Pettitt, D and D, RGS, High Wycombe; C S C Pickering, AAC, Monmouth Sch; E T Picton, KOBR, Rossall Sch; J D H Porter, RTR, The Hulme Grammar Sch; R S Porter, Cheshire, Sandbach Sch; C J Preston, R Signals, Bury GS; R W Profit, RE, Oakham Sch.

P N Randell, R Signals, Ferndown Upper Sch; B J Rayment, R Anglian, Thomas Mills HS, Framlingham; J L Reece, RLC, Coombe Dean Sch, Plymouth; J G Rees-Davies, LG, Sherborne Sch; A M Reid, RE, Bishop Ullathorne CS, Coventry; G J Robinson, RA, Malvern College; W B Robinson, R Irish (HSFT), Omagh Academy; W H Robinson, RE, Oundle Sch; O N Roper, LI, Uppingham Sch; H W Rosen, Coldm Gds, Shrewsbury Sch; C R Ross, RGR, Bournemouth Sch; A E Russell, WFR, Caterham Sch.

P J Sanders, RE, Welbeck College; H J Scott, R Signals, Clacton HS; K W Scott, AGC (PRO), Friends Sch, Lisburn; W R S O L Scrase-Dickins, RGJ, Downside Sch; S H R Scrope, Coldm Gds, Ampleforth College; P J Searle, Green Howards, Merchant Taylors Sch; N Serle, KOBR, Lady Berkeley's Sch; A D Shakespeare, R Signals, St George's Sch, Sleaford; E M Shanklyn, RA, Wellington Sch; D G Shannon, R Irish, Foyle & Londonderry College; C K Sherlock, AGC (ETS), Cardinal Newman Sch; A Shorters, REME, St Peter's Sch, Exeter; A J Smith, LD, Berkhamstead Sch; N A Smith, RLC, Turton HS, Bolton; A J Snell, REME, St Peter's Sch, Bournemouth; J-A Snow, SG, Eton College; W Stables, RLC, Welbeck College; C D Statham, Int Corps, Lady Manners Sch, Bakewell; H C Steel, RGJ, Eton College; B L Stevens, RA, Strathallan Sch; A P D Stuart, REME, Dunbar GS.

J M Tallack, AGC (ETS), Shebbear College; J L Tancrel, KOBR, Dallam Sch, Milnthorpe; P T Teiman, AAC, Cressex Sch, High Wycombe; N Thomas, QDG, Plymouth College; S Thomas, QDG, Plymouth House Sch, Swansea; J A Thornett, PARA, Horsforth Sch, Leeds; A P Thornton, Staffords, Sevenoaks Sch; A C Tubbs, 9/12 L, Wycliffe College; A P Tuitt, PWRR, Abbotsfield Sch, Uxbridge.

P L Urry, RA, Bedstone College; S I Valencia, RRW, Clifton College; S M Vardy, AGC (SPS), Heathside Sch, Weybridge; J H Vyvyan, LI, Downside Sch.

D G Walker, RE, King Alfred's Sch, Wantage; J Wallace, REME, St Modan's HS, Stirling; W J L Waugh, RTR, The Leys Sch; V A S Wentworth, RLC, Queen Elisabeth GS, Ashbourne; C M West, RAMC, Hurstpierpoint Sch; M West, RLC, Thurston Upper Sch; N West, RLC, St Hilda's Sch, Whitby; J P Wheale, RA, Abbot Beyne Sch; M E White, QDG, Oundle Sch; N M Wight-Boycott, RS, Loreto Sch; M R Wilkinson, RE, Clifton College; R D Wilkinson, Int Corps, Sevenoaks Sch; R Williams, RE, Rougemont Sch, Newport; G M A Wills, R Signals, Welbeck College; J A J Wilson, RRF, St Mary's College, Crosby; E M Wingfield, RGJ, Eton College; A Wiseman, RA, Keil Sch, Dumbarton; M H W Workman, RE, Wycliffe College; D P Worthington, PARA, Queen Elisabeth Cambria Sch; R A Wright, RA, Harrow Sch.

Overseas cadets

The following overseas cadets also passed out with a view to being commissioned in the Armed Forces of their own countries; the winner of the Overseas Cane was Officer Cadet Mkaka Malawi:

Belize, Jesus Abell Reymundo; Botswana, Daniel Oitsile; Fiji, Nacanieli Robanakadavu Natale; Ghana, Nobel Carl Doe Dei-Arorse; Guyana, Marvin L J Chichester; Hungary, Geza Szucs; Jamaica, O'Neill Blair, Rudolph St Michael Reynolds, Damian Small; Jordan, Basam Mahmoud Al Sraythin; Kuwait, Sheikh Daoud Daoud Al Sabah, Sheikh Hamoud Rashid Al Sabah, Sheikh Khalifa Daij Al Sabah; Malawi, Sikaloka Sanyo Kaliati, Rodrick Mkaka; Malta, Stefan Joseph Camilleri; Namibia, Peter Mutako Damaseb; Oman, Sulaiman Ahmed Al Wardi; Pakistan, Muhammad Salman Tajwar; Sri Lanka, Am Ravindra Pulina Athapaththu; UAE, Ali Obaid Ali Al Zabad, Sheikh Khalid Mohammed Al Qassimi, Yousef Anber Al Sinani; Zimbabwe, Mpofu Khulekani.

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PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

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TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

On him the spirit of the Lord will rest; a spirit of wisdom and understanding, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord. Isaiah 12 : 2

BIRTHS

BOWMAN - On December 8th, to Virginia (née Burrows) and Henry, a daughter, Miranda Jennifer Alice, a sister for Polly.

DEEPROSE - On 12th December 1997, to Jayne (née Martin) and Matthew, a daughter, Olivia Jayne, a sister for Fraser James.

DEBSON-PENDER - On Friday December 12th in Santiago, Chile, to Georgie and Joss, a son, Maximilian Robin.

DOWNS - On December 7th at The Portland Hospital, to Catherine and John, a daughter, Emily.

EDGAR - On December 12th at The Portland Hospital, to Alexis (née Roe) and Nicholas, a beautiful son, Charles Alexander Rupert, a brother for Henrietta.

FLETCHER-JONES - On 12th December 1997 in Amsterdam, to Nigel and Lucinda (née Fowler), a son, Huw Thomas, a brother for Alexandra.

FORTES MAYER JONES - Paul and Wendy are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter, Alice, born on Saturday 13th December at 4.47 am.

HUGHES - See Wilson.

JEHAN - On 9th December 1997, to Sarah (née Harrison) and Denis of Birmingham, a daughter, Olivia.

KRYUKOV - On December 8th at The Portland Hospital, to Ainagul and Dimitri, a daughter, Jeanne.

MACKINTOSH - On December 8th, to Rosie (née Webb) and Angus, a son, Lachlan Jonas Whistler.

MAROLDA - On December 6th at The Portland Hospital, to Vivi and Alberto, a son, Eduardou, a brother for Alessandro, Lorenzo and Federico.

O'BYRNE - On December 8th at The Portland Hospital, to Emma (née Freeman) and Patrick, a daughter, Imogen Daisy Alexandra, a sister for Henry.

RUTHVEN - On 12th December, to Georgie (nee Stevens) and Tim, a daughter.

BIRTHS

SCONZA - On December 8th at The Portland Hospital, to Michael and Sheryl, a son, Alex Finley, a brother for Justin.

VESTEY - On Monday December 15th 1997 in Sydney, to Victoria (née Waddell) and Robin, a son, Henry (Harry) Robin Edmund, a brother for Georgina and Rose.

WILSON - On December 8th, to Jane Hughes and Nick Wilson, a daughter, Lucy Elizabeth, a sister for Alexandra and Jamie.

DEATHS

ABBOTT - Trevor Michael. On 9th December. Beloved husband, son and brother. Devoted father to Ben, Cherry, Candy, Tristan and Megan. Funeral will be private. Details of Memorial Service to be announced in New Year. No flowers please. Donations to Trevor's favourite charity, The Wooden Spoon Society, Spoon Office, 35 Maugham Court, Whitstable, Kent, CT5 4HR.

ANDERSON - Died at home on 12th December 1997 aged 61 years Kathryn Mary Anderson. Beloved mother. Funeral Service on Friday 19th December 1997 at St Anne's Church, Larkshall Road, Chingford E4 at 12.30pm. Donations if wished to Multiple Sclerosis Society c/o D.W. Johns Funeral Directors, 108 Station Road, Chingford E4 6AE.

ANDREWS - Dr. Ronald Alford on December 6th, peacefully at home in Sydney aged 88. Dearly loved husband, father and grandfather; former Commodore of the Royal Cruising Club. A Service of Thanksgiving for his life will be held at the end of January. Details tel: (0117) 973 6306.

ANDREWS - Norman Edward OBE on December 13th 1997. Beloved husband of the late Tula Mildenez, died peacefully at his home in Guatemala City, Guatemala. Much missed by his children, family and friends.

DEATHS

BAKER - Nicholas (Nick) on December 11th suddenly in hospital aged 41. Much loved and loving husband of Anne, father of Louise and Laura, son of Barbara and Sydney and brother of Anne and the late Jemma. Funeral on Friday December 19th at 1 pm at All Saints' Church, Peppard, Oxon. Family flowers only please but donations if desired to The British Heart Foundation, 14 Fitzhardinge Street, W1.

BATTAM - Henry Alfred John December 14th 1997. Died peacefully. Most beloved husband, father and grandfather.

BREEZE - Harry, M.B.E., D.F.C., C.Eng., M.I. Gas E. Aged 83 years. Formerly of Wales Gas. Peacefully at his home in Swansea. Funeral Saturday 20th December, 1997. Enquiries 01792 896110.

CHAFFE - Pamela on December 12th 1997 at Guys Hospital, London. A very special lady who will be fondly remembered. Donations for the British Heart Foundation and enquiries to Walter Paxton (01752) 767676.

CHAMBERS - On December 11th at the Oxford Beaumont Nursing Care Centre, Joan Mair Chambers aged 88, daughter of Professor William Gough of Leeds University, beloved wife and widow of David Gostling Chambers late of the Indian Civil Service, much loved mother of William and Richard, devoted grandmother of Josephine, Robert and Lucy. Cremation on Monday December 22nd at 1.30 pm at the Oxford Crematorium and afterwards at The Gore, Boars Hill. Flowers to Reeves and Pain Funeral Directors, 288 Abingdon Road, Oxford.

COOPER - Robert Douglas. Suddenly at home in London on December 10th 1997 Bob (late of Bass Breweries and a member of the Royal Mid Surrey Golf Club). Beloved son of Marguerite and the late Peter Cooper and loving brother of Helen. Sadly missed by all family and friends. A funeral service will take place at Warriston Crematorium Cloister Chapel Edinburgh on Friday 19th December 1997 at 1.45pm to which all family and friends are welcome. Family flowers only please.

COOK - On December 14th 1997 peacefully at St Michael's Hospice, Basingstoke. Ernest Alfred Gilbert, aged 89, devoted husband of the late Kathleen Alice, much loved father of Mary and Sue and loving grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral Service at Wootton St Lawrence Church on Friday 19th December at 2 pm. No flowers please, donations for St Michael's Hospice c/o Stowells Funeral Service, Worting Road, Basingstoke, Hants. RG21 8XE.

COXON - Dr. Robert David Alexander (Sandy) died at home on December 9th 1997 aged 47. Will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral Service at Dymchurch Parish Church on Thursday December 18th 1997 at 2 pm. Family flowers only or donations if desired to R.N.L.I. or M.N.D.A. c/o Chittendens Funeral Services, Windmill Street, Hythe, Kent CT21 6BH.

DAVIES - Elfreda Bennett MBE peacefully on 11th December 1997. Elfreda former Principal of The Queen Elizabeth School, Ilorin, Nigeria and Headmistress of Walthamstow Hall School, Sevenoaks. Funeral Service at the United Reformed Church, Shrewsbury on December 18th at 2 pm. A Memorial Service will be held at a later date. Enquiries tel: 01743 344646.

FOSKETT - On December 11th peacefully at St Anthony's Hospital, Don, beloved husband of Nobuko and Myrtle, father of Mike and Sandy and much loved grandfather. Funeral Service at New Malden Methodist Church at 10.45 am on Monday 22nd December. Family flowers only please. Donations in memory of Don to "Princess Alice Hospice" if desired c/o Fredk W. Paine, 182 High Street, New Malden, Surrey KT3 4ES.

FREEMAN-WALLACE - Lt-Col. Richard John. Died suddenly at The Royal London Yacht Club, Cowes, Isle of Wight on Saturday 13th December. Family flowers only. Donations to the I.O.W. Society for the Blind, care of Twynams, Avenue Road, Freshwater. Much missed husband, father and friend.

GREENWOOD - Thomas on Saturday last. Much loved husband of Joan and beloved son of Valerie and Geoffrey and beloved brother to Fiona, Mary and Richard and uncle to Archie and Darcy. Remembrance Service at St George's, Hanover Square, W1, 3.30 pm Friday 19th December. All friends welcome. No flowers please - donations to the R.N.L.I.

HANBURY - Reader Dennison D.S.O. died aged 82 years bravely on 12th December at Rowcroft Hospice, Torquay. He is sadly missed by family and friends. The Funeral Service will be held at St Michael's Islington Parish Church, Devon on Thursday 18th December at 3 pm. Flowers or donations in remembrance for Rowcroft Hospice can be accepted into the c/o Coombes & Sons, Funeral Directors of Bovey Tracey, Devon.

HILL - Geoffrey M.B.E. died December 11th 1997 aged 81. Private funeral. No floral tributes. Donations to The British Antique Dealers Benevolent Fund c/o The British Antique Dealers Association, 20 Rutland Gate, London SW7 1BD.

HOLT - Peacefully at home at Muxzaythwaite, Lockerbie, on 14th December 1997, Frank Holt, in his 91st year, beloved husband of Anne. Funeral Service on Friday 19th December at Muxzaythwaite at 2 pm and thereafter private cremation. No letters please.

HUMPHRIES - Alan Humphries O.B.E. First Headmaster of the British School of Brussels. Died on 9th December 1997 in Spain where he has been cremated. Friends and colleagues will be welcome at a reunion in remembrance of Alan at Farthinghoe Village Hall, near Brackley, Northants on 2nd January 1998. Details from (01295) 710335.

IRWIN - Brigadier Angus D.H. Irwin CBE, DSO, MC, JP. On December 15th 1997 peacefully in hospital. Devoted and much loved husband, father and grandfather. Funeral private. Thanksgiving Service in the New Year.

JELF - On 11th December 1997, Hector Jelf CBE. Much loved by Agnes, Peggy, Cressida, Murray, Jenny and Chris and grandchildren Miranda, Rosie, Christoph and Ant. Cremation private. Thanksgiving Service and burial of ashes on Friday 19th December at the Parish Church of St George, Crowhurst, near Battle, at 1.30 pm. No flowers please, donations if desired to St Michael's Hospice, 25 Upper Maze Hill, St Leonards on Sea, TN38 0LR.

KENNEDY - Cecil aged 92. Still-life Painter, on 12th December at his home in St Albans. Devoted and adored husband of Winifred. Most lovingly and respectfully missed by Robert and Jill, his six grandchildren and his six great-grandchildren. Funeral Service to take place at St Michael's Church, St Albans at 10 am on Friday 19th December to which all friends are welcome. Flowers and enquiries to Phillips Funerals, 68 Alma Road, St Albans. Tel: 01727 851606.

KNIGHT - Daphne of Cotheridge, near Worcester, died peacefully at Romkswood Hospital, Worcester, on Saturday 13th December aged 82 years. Dearly beloved wife of Colonel Allen Knight, much loved mother of Susan and Felicity-Anne, devoted grandmother of Ian and Christopher. Funeral at St Leonard's Church, Cotheridge, at 2.30 pm on Thursday 18th December. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to Worcester Branch SSAFA - Forces Help, TA Centre, Silver Street, Worcester.

LEIGH HOWARD - Eric on 12th December peacefully at home, formerly a senior partner of Payne Hicks Beach. Funeral Service at Golders Green Crematorium on Thursday 18th December at 3.15 pm. There will be a Memorial Service in early spring 1998. Any enquiries to Grahame Stadan at Charles Russell Solicitors, tel: (0171) 203-5196.

McCAIG - Elizabeth Mary (née Johnstone) on December 11th, beloved wife of Richard, mother of David (deceased), Susan and Mark; grandmother of Henry and Harriet; died quite peacefully after a long illness, borne with great spirit. Funeral Service at 11 am Friday December 19th at Church of St Mary the Virgin, Chieveley. Family flowers only please: donations if desired to Berkshire Guide Association, c/o Camp Hopson, Funeral Directors, 90 West Street, Newbury, Berks. (Tel: 01635 522210).

NOAD - Frank on 10th December aged 90 peacefully at Tyspane Nursing Home, Braunton, North Devon. Loving and beloved husband of Louise and a devoted and much loved father and grandfather. Funeral on 18th December at 1.30 pm at St Anne's Chapel, Saunton. Family flowers or donations if desired to Tyspane Residents Fund c/o Baddick & Dymond, Exeter Road, Braunton, Devon, tel: (01271) 812042.

OSLEN - Joseph David died suddenly in hospital on December 12th, beloved husband of Olive, father of Lindsay and Sarah, father-in-law of Clive and Adrian, grandfather of Sophie, Jessica and Hugh. Service at St Andrew's Church, Kingswood, on Thursday December 18th at 10 am. Family flowers only please. Donations in memory to British Heart Foundation.

PHILLIPS - Margaret Blanche, wife of Stephen and mother of Richard and William, died peacefully on December 11th at home after a short illness. Service of Thanksgiving at St Margaret's Church at 2.30pm on Sunday 11th January. No flowers please, donations to Save the Children Fund.

ROWLEY - Celia, The Hon. Lady. Peacefully at home on 13th December 1997. Funeral at St Mary's, Stoke by Nayland on Friday 19th December at 11.30 am. Family flowers only. Donations if wished to St Mary's, Stoke by Nayland, c/o R. Gwinnell & Son, 112 Ipswich Road, Colchester. The 9.30 train from London Liverpool Street will be met at Colchester.

SIKES - On December 12th 1997 Mona Evelyn, loved widow of Brig. George Sikes and mother of John and Jane, a grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral at York Crematorium on Friday December 19th at 11 am. No flowers, donations if desired to RSPB, The Lodge, Sandy, Beds. SG19 2DL.

SMITH - On 13th December 1997, peacefully at Amesbury, Louise Todd Smith JP, aged 92 years. Wife of the late James H.F. Smith, mother of Deborah and Stephen. Funeral Service at St Mary & St Melor Church, Amesbury on Tuesday 18th December at 2.30 pm. No flowers by request.

TAYLOR - Wilfrid Arthur Bryan died in hospital on 11th December. Funeral at Lytham Crematorium 12.30pm on Thursday 18th December. No flowers please.

WARDLE - David Bernard OBE peacefully aged 92 of Bawdley, Worcestershire, formerly of Blackheath, London. Cremation at Stourbridge Friday 19th December 3 pm. Donations for the Guild of St George c/o B. Ince Funeral Directors, Rank House, 8 Severnside South

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DAPHNE FIELDING

Daphne Fielding, formerly Marchioness of Bath, author, died on December 5 aged 93. She was born on July 11, 1904.

Coming from the gilded world of Evelyn Waugh's Oxford, Daphne Fielding married a viscount, became a marchioness, married a war hero, had a spot of trouble about bigamy, and lived the second half of her long and zestful life, mostly in self-exile, writing about the first half.

Daphne Winifred Louise Vivian was the elder daughter of the stormy marriage of 4th Baron Vivian and Barbara Fanning, and once played ring-a-ring-a-roses with Edward VII. Her twin aunts had been maids of honour to Queen Victoria.

Her mother left when she was four (and was to marry four times), and her father's indulgence of Daphne's mischievous spirits made her a proper little madam. And sometimes an improper one: she was removed from one school after she and an accomplice used their compasses to skewer a buttock each of an unwary class mistress. So it was an eccentric and itinerant education, burnished in Paris, where she was sent at 16 and learnt to love the opera. Meanwhile she had become so beautiful that her brother Tony used to hire out her photograph at Eton "for a shilling an hour". Augustus John drew her portrait.

In London, where her father took a house for the season, she made friends with a theatrical set including Tallulah Bankhead, and in Oxford she knew Harold Acton, Robert Byron, Evelyn Waugh (who dedicated to her *The Ordeal of Gilbert Pinfold*). In Oxford she also met Henry, Viscount Weymouth, the heir to Longleat and the Bath family estate in Wiltshire, whom she married twice: once secretly, then for show.

First came a bit of horseplay, when they went out riding dressed as highwaymen, and demanded coins from passers-by. The marquess disapproved so strongly of this extortion that he forbade his son to see Daphne. Her parents, too, opposed the match, so the first wedding, in 1926, was conducted clandestinely, with each set of parents kept in ignorance and the two parties using their second Christian names when the banns were read. He was 21, she 22. Lord Weymouth was then sent to Texas by his family in "strict training for the marathon of matrimony". She, meanwhile, wore the wedding ring on a chain around her neck. When he returned the following year he declared himself still in love, and the marquess relented. The marriage now had to be regularised, and for the benefit of families and the aristocracy in general (which came to much the same thing) a big wedding was organised at St Martin-in-the-Fields and duly recorded by Cecil Beaton.

The couple ran with a wild and moneyed group — Duff Coopers, Rothermeres, Devonshires, Westminsters — and enjoyed more than a decade of cruises, bicycling trips and getting "spiflicated" at weekend parties. At the end of the evening, they would drink a libation to Bacchus as a last toast, in vain hopes of postponing the morning after. They lived at Sturford Mead, an idyllic house on the Longleat estate, in luxury if not ancestral splendour, and cultivated friends such as the painter Rex Whistler.

There were no lions yet at Longleat, but the pekinese, the terrier, the retriever and the parrot misbehaved with agreeable panache. In 1951 Lady Bath wrote a short account of the even grander life there at the turn of the century, *Before the Sunset Fades*. She had also taken up painting, writing to Evelyn Waugh that her muse was "more inspired by kippers than by the Queen or Mr Attlee".

It was a happy marriage, producing four sons (the eldest of whom died in infancy) and a daughter. But Lord Weymouth spent much of the war as a German prisoner of war, and difficulties — though not acrimony — ensued when he returned, and succeeded to the title in 1946. The unorthodox nuptial arrangements were matched by the peculiar circumstances of the eventual divorce. On a single day in May 1953, Lady Bath and the Hon David Tennant were granted reciprocal, uncontested divorces on the grounds of the adultery of Lord Bath and Mrs Virginia Tennant ("the judge exercising his discretion concerning Mr Tennant's own misconduct"). Two months later the Baths would each remarry, while remaining friends. But things were not to work out quite so neatly.



Daphne Fielding and Lord Bath on the occasion of their second wedding in 1927

On her 49th birthday, Daphne married Major Alexander Fielding, who had worked in the Resistance in Crete during the war, and as Xan Fielding had written about his capture and narrow escape from a Gestapo death sentence. But the following year a book of reminiscences, *Mercury Presides* by Daphne Fielding, revealed the secret marriage, which had inconveniently not been cited in the divorce papers. Changing the decree took 18 months, and severely depleted the resources of her husband, who lived for many years in anticipation of a handsome legacy that never came through.

Selling their house in Cornwall, the Fieldings moved to live rather insalubriously in Tangier, which was so humid that shoes left in cupboards soon produced fine crops of mushrooms. But wine was only a shilling a litre in 1957, and Daphne made some money by writing for the papers about the decline of the English seaside postcard and other social issues. In 1961 she published a novel, *The Adonis Garden*. Evelyn Waugh wrote: "it is as though Norman Douglas and Nancy Mitford and Ernest Hemingway had sat down tight to a paper game." This was probably praise.

The Fieldings moved to Portugal, and Daphne began working on a history of the Cavendish Hotel with George Kinnaird. But Kinnaird was living in England, and she decided that it was "as unnatural for two people to produce a book as for three people to produce a baby". Although it had been Kinnaird's idea, she took over what was to become her best-known book, *The Duchess of Jermyn Street* (1964), a biography of Rosa Lewis, with a preface by Evelyn Waugh.

Fielding had known the Cavendish from forbidden trysts in the 1920s and from stays there during the Blitz, and well remembered its hostess, whose stays were said to be autographed by Daphne's old friend Edward VII. In 1976 the BBC ran a 25-part fictionalised series about Rosa Lewis, called *The Duchess of Duke Street*. It was a great success, and a further 25 parts were broadcast the following year. Fielding, unfortunately, was given no formal credit, but her agent at least ensured that her book was republished.

From Portugal, the Fieldings moved to Languedoc, where they welcomed artists and writers such as Lawrence Durrell and Elisabeth Frink as guests. But although she embraced new experiences with enthusiasm, the people of her youth remained the most vivid to Daphne. Her life of Lady Cunard and her daughter, *Emerald and Nancy* (1968), was followed by a second instalment of memoirs, *The Nearest Way Home* (1970), which was dedicated to Dirk Bogarde.

In the late 1970s, Xan Fielding left Daphne, and her future looked likely to be lonely. However, she soon struck up with Ben Kittridge, who had known and admired her from decades before. She went to live with him in Arizona, learning to love the desert and the cactuses, and remained there until his death seven years later, when she retired to Gloucestershire.

In 1978 she had written *The Face on the Sphinx*, a portrait of Gladys Deacon, Duchess of Marlborough, who had had one of the first facelifts. The operation, to inject her cheeks with paraffin wax, had been a disaster, for gravity triumphed and turned her into something of a gargoyle (she subsequently went mad). But the book was based largely on society gossip which turned out to be very inaccurate. She never wrote another book, but her writing — and especially her memoirs — will remain as vivid glimpses of life through seven decades among the classes who didn't exactly have to work.

Daphne Fielding's second marriage was dissolved in 1978. She is survived by two sons from her first marriage. Her son Alexander succeeded as Marquess of Bath in 1992.

N. C. SAINSBURY

N. C. Sainsbury, linguist and librarian, died on November 20 aged 87. He was born on July 14, 1910.

DURING his long and distinguished career in librarianship, Norman Sainsbury was principal of two of the country's most illustrious oriental collections: at London University's School of Oriental and African Studies and at the Bodleian Library, Oxford.

Born in Hampshire — for which he retained a lifelong affection — he won a scholarship to Portsmouth Grammar School, before winning a major classical scholarship to Cambridge, where he was also a Kitchener scholar at Peterhouse. Mastery of the classics was an ideal preparation for a change of academic direction, and he proceeded to read for the oriental languages tripos. He took firsts in part I in classics and in both parts in oriental languages. His prowess in Middle Eastern languages was recognised in the award of the E. G. Browne scholarship, which he held at Pembroke College, 1932-33.

Sainsbury must have mapped out his career while still at college, for he obtained certificates from the Library Association in cataloguing and other branches of library work in 1928 and 1929. He took up his first post in librarianship at Cambridge University Library in 1932, beginning with cataloguing duties and later helping to plan the move to new buildings.

From 1935 until 1947, with a break for war service, when he was seconded first to the War Office and then to the Foreign Office, he was assistant keeper in the department of oriental printed books and manuscripts at the British Museum, where he was responsible for books and manuscripts in Persian and Turkish.

Sainsbury never spoke in detail about the nature of his duties during the war, but for a time he was employed at Bletchley Park, where his keen and analytical mind would certainly have been useful.

In 1947 he became librarian at the School of Oriental and African Studies. The war had led to considerable arrears in cataloguing, and the significant growth of oriental studies recommended by the Scarborough Commission brought parallel growth in the library's holdings. By the time of Sainsbury's resignation in 1950, the stock had grown to at least 100,000 volumes — providing the makings of the internationally celebrated collection that it subsequently became. The staff, meanwhile, increased from six to 15. Sainsbury also edited the school's *Bulletin*.

He left the school to take up new duties, again of a confidential nature, at the Government Communications Headquarters in Cheltenham, but in 1956 he was appointed keeper of oriental books at the Bodleian Library, where he remained until his retirement in 1976.

His contributions to librarianship, both at the School of Oriental and African Studies and the Bodleian were principally organisational. He was concerned to build up teams of specialists adequate to embrace the heterogeneous branches of learning covered by the designation "oriental studies". He inherited a minimal establishment both in London and in Oxford, and left both libraries with far more satisfactory staffing levels.

In the oriental reading room of the Bodleian he created a catalogue which unified all the oriental language materials in his charge, with the exception of Chinese. His knowledge of the history of the oriental manuscript collections was unique, and he set himself the task of providing descriptions of all such material that was hitherto unrecorded.

He also worked tirelessly on a card catalogue of Arabic manuscripts. For this task, which required mastery of the two early Latin printed catalogues and the standard German bio-bibliographies, his linguistic accomplishments ideally suited him. In his distinctive and eminently readable hand, he wrote out some 5,000 entries, which were subsequently typed on to cards over several years.

While he was keeper, the library's holdings were enriched by more than 100 Middle Eastern manuscripts, Turkish, a language which particularly fascinated him, benefited most, with early Ottoman imprints complementing the manuscript acquisitions. Valuable additions were also made to the Arabic, Persian, Armenian and Ethiopic collections. Outside his own department he helped with work to improve the library's security.

He was a man who was courageous, both physically and morally. If a cherished principle appeared to him to be in danger of violation he would stand by this no matter what the cost might be to himself. Once a staff member proved in his judgment to be worthy of his loyalty he would support such a person to the utmost.

In his leisure time he took a keen interest in music and opera, and was a regular attender at Glyndebourne. His ability to solve crossword puzzles was famous.

He was married twice, in the first instance to Norah Mary Evans, who predeceased him in 1974. His second marriage was to Margaret Beven, a colleague at the Bodleian and family friend, who survives him. There were no children by either marriage.



THE EARL OF DARTMOUTH

Gerald Legge, 9th Earl of Dartmouth, died on December 14 aged 73. He was born on April 26, 1924.

THE Earl of Dartmouth was the first husband of Raine Countess Spencer, who made his successive names famous to a wide public, first as the Hon Mrs Gerald Legge, then as Viscountess Lewisham and ultimately as Countess of Dartmouth.

Gerald Humphry Legge was educated at Eton, going straight from there into the Army. He served in Italy during the latter part of the Second World War as a captain in the Coldstream Guards and was mentioned in dispatches.

After the war he trained as an accountant, was a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, and in 1958 became a director of Rea Brothers, the bankers. He served as chairman of Ocean Wilson Holdings Ltd. He was also chairman of the Royal Choral Society and, following his second marriage to a Brazilian, he was chairman of the Anglo-Brazilian Society. Presumably more for the sake of his name than anything else, he was made an honorary LLD of Dartmouth College, New Hampshire, in 1969.

In 1958 Gerald Legge assumed the courtesy title of Viscount Lewisham once his father succeeded his eldest brother as 8th Earl of Dartmouth. Four years later he, in turn, succeeded his father as 9th Earl in October 1962.

The Legge family descended from Thomas Legge, who was Sheriff of London in 1343 and twice Lord Mayor. George Legge, created 1st Baron Dartmouth in 1682, rose to be Admiral of the Fleet and was sent to intercept William of Orange, but failed and ended his days in the Tower of London. His son, however, found favour with Queen Anne and became Lord Privy Seal and 1st Earl of the name. Subsequent earls have included a Knight of the Garter, a Fellow of the Royal Society and a number of courtiers. Gerald Dartmouth's father was Chief Constable of Berkshire from 1932 to 1953.

The 9th Earl, a gentle and charming man, is best remembered for being the quiet partner in a flamboyant marriage. Raine McCorquodale had been a popular debutante and was well-known as the daughter of the romantic novelist, Barbara Cartland. They were married in July 1948 at St Margaret's, Westminster, and a motor-coach transported the 16 bridesmaids (among whom were Lady Pamela Mountbatten and Lady Caroline Thynne — daughter of the Marchioness of Bath, later Daphne Fielding) to Londonderry House for a glittering reception. By 1954 Raine was a councillor in Westminster — she was later to be elected to the LCC and the GLC — who had provoked a famous stir by complaining about the ashtrays full of cigarette ends and half-empty coffee cups at London Airport.

For some years they lived in a 14-bedroom house in Hill Street in Mayfair, but sold this in 1974. In 1978 the Dartmouths were divorced. The earl had cited Lord Spencer, but the divorce was granted on the grounds of the countess's adultery "with a man against whom the charge is not proved". Lord Dartmouth subsequently married Mrs Gwendoline Seguin in 1980, while Lady Dartmouth married Lord Spencer (and, after his death, briefly, the Comte de Chambrun). For a time the Dartmouths lived in an apartment in the block in Berkeley Square where the Spencers also had a London apartment.

Gerald Dartmouth is survived by his second wife, Gwen; their son, Viscount Lewisham, who succeeds to the earldom; two younger sons, one of whom, Rupert, is a novelist like his grandmother; and a daughter, Lady Charlotte di Carcaci.



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XMAS GREETINGS

MERRY CHRISTMAS to all working in the sunny climes on the fourth floor of 140 PR

THE CHAUCHARD GALLERY AT THE LOUVRE.

OPENING BY THE PRESIDENT.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The President of the Republic this morning opened the magnificent collection of modern pictures which was bequeathed to the nation by the late M. Chauchard, the founder of the Magasins du Louvre. The collection has been installed in the Pavillon de Flore in the Musée du Louvre, and there M. Fallières was received this morning by the Presidents of the Senate and the Chamber, by M. Loygues, the former Minister of Public Instruction, who was chiefly instrumental in securing this great legacy of art for the nation, and by the Director of the National Museum . . .

It is, indeed, a magnificent collection which the greatest of Paris shopkeepers, the multi-millionaire, the indefatigable advertiser, Chauchard, has bequeathed to France. On the occasion of the death of that remarkable Parisian last June I sent a sketch and appreciation of his career, and at the same time gave some account of his collection of pictures and of the great sums which he had expended upon it. The collection will now be enshrined for ever in the Louvre, where it will not only be a monument of a very great epoch in French art, but will also mark the date of the "arrival" of the shopkeeper class, as exemplified by the career of the donor . . . In the midst of all the poetry and beauty which is shed from the canvases of Corot and of Millet hangs the very characteristic portrait of M. Chauchard himself, by Benjamin Constant, and the admirably painted silk-faced frock-coat, with the red ribbon of the Legion of Honour, the flamboyant silvery whiskers, the satin stock, with its enormous pearl pin, display the successful tradesman of expansive and distinctly artistic sympathies.

But what a dream of beauty and poetry the Chauchard Gallery is! There are, to begin with, no fewer than some 30 Corots, and all of them are of Corot's best. There is the famous "L'Etang de Ville-d'Avray" with the dreamy fleecy birches in the foreground, and infinite peace fading in the dim gradations over the lake to the wooded background. There is the "Danse des Nymphes," one of those pictures which made Baudry declare to Corot himself, then comparatively obscure, that he was worthy to rank with Giorgione as a figure-painter. There is "Le Repos sous les Saules," "Les Bûcherons," "Le Soir," "Le Matin," "Le Passage du Gué," and "La Danse des Bergers," all filled with the wistfulness in repose, which makes Corot's pictures restful and as comforting as Wordsworth's poetry.

Side by side with these in at least one of the rooms are the Millets. What an unequalled conjunction! Crowds will long continue to gather in front of the "Angelus," which Chauchard bought back for France from America at a cost of some £20,000 . . . "La Bergère" is now a great picture. The red-cloaked figure of the little shepherdess knitting as she walks in front of her flock and the dim evening light upon the fleeces of the sheep have been the inspiration and the despair of many a lesser painter. Then there is "Le Vanneur," with its mastery of motion . . .

ON THIS DAY

December 16, 1910

The magnificent collection of modern pictures bequeathed to the French nation by "the greatest of Paris shopkeepers", the multi-millionaire M Chauchard, included some 30 Corots and works by Millet, Meissonier and Theodore Rousseau.

Wanted: canny ITF entrants. Large rewards

The story so far . . .

Tell me more about this FA Cup league, then.
Well, despite the name, it isn't strictly only an FA Cup league. The Tennents Cup games in Scotland count too.
But that doesn't start at the same time, does it?
No, the Scottish premier league teams don't enter the competition until January 24.
So if I've entered a team especially for the cup, it should start off with English premier league players.
Exactly. And it's probably a good idea to select players from teams with good draws.
Such as?
Arsenal or Leeds defenders. Both clubs are at home to first division sides, and shouldn't concede many goals. Even Crystal Palace might get a home win against Scunthorpe or Ilkeston. West Ham look comfortable too, at home to Lincoln City or Emley, and could score goals. Hartson might be a good buy.
But what about the magic of the cup? The unpredictable nature of the world's greatest knock-out competition?
Exactly; there is a risk. Wimbledon against Wrexham could be tricky — Wrexham have a great cup record.
Blackburn against Wigan?
A case in point; on paper, a home win — but it is a local derby: Wigan's cup final. So you never know.
This is going to take some thought. And, while we're at it, aren't there a limited number of games? Every round has successively fewer ties.
Don't forget replays; if you think that, say, Portsmouth v Villa will be a goalless draw, with Villa winning the replay, then buy Villa defenders.
But what if they were drawn away to Manchester United in the next round?
Well, the next round may prompt you to make a few transfers, certainly. But anyway, what makes you think Manchester United will even be in the next round?
Good point. And the Scottish clubs will be in by then.
Now you're getting the idea.
Hang on, though — in the semi-finals and final, there will only be four, then two teams playing . . .
Eight and four; don't forget Scotland!
Ah yes, of course. But certainly only four in the two finals. So only eight of your team's players will be in action by the end.
It's the same for everyone, I'm afraid.
And last year, Falkirk were in the Tennents Cup final, but not in the premier league, and Chesterfield, a second division side, were in the FA Cup semi-finals!
Well, that's . . .
. . . the magic of the cup. Thank you.

Jumpers for Christmas? There are lots of outstanding examples in this week's ITF lists — 37,788 places in the case of one team

The ability of teams to win without a manager is an oft-noted football phenomenon. Only this season, Sheffield Wednesday thrashed Bolton 5-0 in the interregnum between David Pleat and Ron Atkinson.

It also seems to work in Interactive Team Football. This weekend's highest climber in the ITF lists, H. Astbury of Blair Gowrie, Perthshire, has not yet seen fit to replace Gerry Francis as manager of his team, Haddy's Hopefuls, but still enjoyed a 50-point week which saw his selection rise 37,788 places to 67,161st.

Seven of his team are Scotland-based; Jackie McNamara, the Celtic full-back, was his top scorer with ten points, although Sieb Dykstra, the Dundee United goalkeeper, and Marcus Hall, the Coventry City and England under-21 defender, who played in midfield and scored his first league goal against Tottenham on Saturday, both weighed in with nine. Darren Jackson and Eoin Jess, each scored five.

Things are close in mid-table: M. Gaylor, N. Bow and R. Shepstone, in joint 109,280th position with 223 points, all scored 44 points over the same seven-day period, and found themselves together again sharing 77,288th place.

Mr D. Clarke was the second highest jumper, up 33,621 positions with 49 points, but the same total accrued by an ITF entrant higher up the league resulted in a rise of "only" 30,122 places. The Christmas tree formation in the real world refers to a 4-3-2-1 lineup; in ITF, it is an illustration of the relative density of numbers of players on different points totals; the higher you go, the fewer share the same numbers of points.

NICK SZCZEPANIK

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See page 40 today for full details

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ROSS KINNAIRD / ALLSPORT



Kevin Gallacher in action at the weekend. Blackburn's FA Cup draw could see him on the scoresheet again

HOW IS YOUR TEAM DOING?
Call the ITF Checkline on
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FAXBACK: YOUR UP-TO-DATE TEAM SCORES

The brand new *Times* Faxback service provides you with a complete results sheet of your team, showing current and total scores, dates, times and details of transfers, as well as your position in the ITF League and, if appropriate, your mini-league (womens, students, youth). Scores and transfer confirmations are updated by 12 noon on the day following a match or matches.

Make sure you have your ten-digit PIN number ready when you call. To obtain an ITF Team Faxback, simply pick up the handset of the fax machine and dial the telephone number below. If your fax does not have a handset, attach a handset or press the on-hook or telephone button instead and dial the number below. Listen carefully to the instructions and press the appropriate buttons when asked. Calls cost £1 per minute and are available in the UK only.

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LEAGUE UPDATES

ITF LEAGUE
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PFA PLAYERS' LEAGUE
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STUDENTS' LEAGUE
Mitre
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YOUTH LEAGUE
DAIRY CREST
Monthly prize of premiership tickets, signed football and sports bag

WOMEN'S LEAGUE
Monthly prize of premiership tickets, signed football and sports bag

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

1	B Fletcher	Ab Fab	515
2	C Purdy	Kates Cosmos	511
3	S Brooks	Sandras Specials	509
3	S Whitfield	Snail Busters	509
5	S Reader	Sophie Reader Fa	498
6	J Gardner	15 Chumbawumbas	497
7	M Hussain	Good Luck Malika	484
8	L Emery	Buggsy's Boys	483
9	P Johnston	XII Superstars	478
10	A Hembrow	The Breconians 1	477
10	P Sloan	Patslo Utd	477
12	S Allport	Farmoor Pinks	473
13	C Purdy	Kates Upstarts	471
14	A Bearn	Harry's Heroes	470
14	H Irvine	Hef's Belles	470
14	J Peppar	Peppar Pots	470
17	P Bee	Bumble Five	460
18	K Tindall	Flash XI	459
19	T Fenn	Over The Moon	458
20	Adach	Fantasy Wolves 11	457

STUDENTS' LEAGUE

1	N Wheatley	H D G Is A Sad Waster	587
2	G Wilson	Dog Soldiers	564
3	T Gardner	6 Chumbawumbas	533
4	N Wheatley	Witheridge is ill	526
5	C Marianczak	Jansen's XI	510
6	N Wheatley	A Tight Horse Is Fun	501
7	J Gardner	15 Chumbawumbas	497
8	Steven Shipley	Set Against	490
9	J Windeatt	Father Shabooboo	482
10	I McGill	The White Helmets	481
11	P Henson	Hensonhammers	472
12	F Ferguson	Saucy Sue Barker	471
13	J Frost	Variety Sports Inter	470
14	C Van Hough	The Boy Sprouts	466
15	M Titterington	Stjohn'swhirehse	462
16	D Garrett	The Splice Boys	461
17	M Griffiths	The Town	459
17	J Gillvley	The Avengers XI	459
19	Z Tezer	Ziggy Greaves XI	458
20	E Carmichael	Jedi Masters	457

YOUTH LEAGUE

1	D Lewis	Lewis Boys 11	553
2	R Wicke	Robbed	519
3	M Somapala	Horley Flames	516
4	C Marianczak	Jansen's XI	510
5	J Gardner	15 Chumbawumbas	497
6	M McPhillips	Ballygallyrovers	495
7	M Roberts	Krystonia Three	476
8	J Laurence	Smooth United	475
9	C Oyston	The Offspring FC	474
10	T Smith	Up The League FC	468
11	O Ledgard	Olivers Army	459
11	K Tindall	Flash XI	459
13	G Calderbank	Calders XI	457
13	N Brotherton	Total Commitment	457
13	D Greenman	Thekopforthecup	457
13	S Mawer	Forest Reserves2	457
17	P Carter	Spartak Carter	456
18	A Monteith	Montys Dons	455
19	J Tompkins	Joesbunchoftarts	454
19	N McGuinness	The Invincibles	454

ITF LEAGUE

1	Mr M Jones	Jb6	628
2	S Legg	Goose 4	620
3	Mr M Jones	Jb4	618
4	B Fazakerley	Lic 4	614
5	Mike Madden	Poachers never change	608
6	G Rainbow	Rainbows Topteam	606
7	D Fenton	Out Of The Blue	604
8	Mr A Colombe	Mr Wads XI	602
9	Malcolm Jackson	No name	597
10	D Shuter	Don 2	594
11	N Wheatley	H D G Is A Sad Waster	587
12	Mary Ann Kennedy	Inverness Undecided	586
13	Mr D Edbrooke Stainer	Ca	583
14	C Sloan	Branningham FC	582
15	Mr M Jones	Jb5	580
16	P Turner	Turners Earners 5	578
17	A Luckhurst	Tobs	577
18	D Shuter	Russell 2	573
19	George Mijuskovich	Big Mac Europe	572
20	D Ross	Liberos	571
21	J Strickland	ClanB	570
21	DBusby	This Years Lot	570
23	Graeme Dabnor	St Remy Strikers	569
24	P Turner	Turners Earners 6	568
25	A Luckhurst	Caroline B	567
26	J Hunt	John Hunt Taunton 7	566
26	Mr M Jones	Jb2	566
28	AJ Hastings	Golden Wonders	565
28	G Dolan	Genesis	565
30	G Wilson	Dog Soldiers	564
30	R Calder	Bobs Boys6	564
32	S Legg	Goose 5	563
33	C Burr	Burr's Spurs 4	562
34	Mary Ann Kennedy	Too Farr	561
35	A Neviazski	Nadar	560
36	Mr P Turner	Te T Cup	559
36	J Hunt	John Hunt Taunton 1	559
38	J Hunt	John Hunt Fa Cup A	557
39	J Kitchen	Simbas Dream	556
39	R Lockyer	Rachels	556
39	P Turner	Turners Earnt 5	556
42	P Rees	Yukon Merchants	555
43	D Walton	Numpty Nuts	554
43	G Kooner	United	554
45	D Shuter	DON 5	553
45	Andrew Bates	Wetherby Racing 7	553
45	S Legg	Goose 8	553
48	P Rawlings	Eastbrook Stars	552
48	Chris Forde	Game of Two Pints	552
50	RJ Ward	Nonchalant A FC 4	551
50	A Luckhurst	TOBUTT	551
50	Steven Adams	Britannia Stokies	551
50	Mr K Lethby	Kl43	551
54	B Bare	Teddy 1	550
54	Barba Papa a la Bacon	Novote Spoilers	550
54	J Hunt	John Hunt Taunton 8	550
54	K Farhall	Chelsea 6	550
58	Susan Makin	Spud2	549
58	Richard Callis	Sydney Celtic FC	549
60	Michael Huddlestone	Pulp Faction III	548
61	P Bown	Bees XI	547
61	J W Goody	Legion	547
61	P Turner	Turners Earners 1	547
61	P Turner	Turners Earners 4	547
65	Tim Oldfield	Winster Warriors 1	546
65	Andy Robson	Club 18-30	546
67	G Millington	Survivors	545
68	D Shuter	Don 1	544
68	DM Carter	Pinewood Form	544
68	Adam Fitzjohn	Af4	544
68	J Hunt	John Hunt Taunton 4	544
72	W Clark	Blazen Heads	543
72	C Paget	Inwithasboutatit	543
72	Jeremy Dwyer	Nudge Nudge Wink Wink	543
72	Brian O'Hare	The Warriors (Come out to play	543
72	Mr A Mellon	Shorts Hits	543
77	T Gammage	Drowned Goldfish	541
77	Jon Pregon	Jp 1	541
77	P Turner	Turners Earnt 1	541
80	Mary Ann Kennedy	Oilrig Pack RNG	540
80	Philip Ward	Wannabe Heroes XI	540
80	V Cox	Pegasus And Unicorns	540
80	Mr D Burch	Alfz	540
80	J Hunt	John Hunt Taunton A	540
85	P Boxall	Zara 3	539
85	Michael Horan	St. Patrick's Charioteers	539
85	J Hunt	John Hunt Taunton 6	539
88	I Ralph	Marco Champions	538
88	A Maddocks	Bess	538
88	Graeme Dabnor	St Remy Streetfighters	538
88	Mukund	Goulou Goulou	538
88	P Turner	Turners Earners 10	538
93	A Luckhurst	Eddie Woo	537
93	A Luckhurst	Caroline A	537
93	Henry Wheeler	Quito Fan	537
93	J Hunt	John Hunt Taunton 3	537
97	A Luckhurst	Woo!	536
97	P Bee	Bumble Twelve	536
97	P Darnell	Hakin Utd	536
97	Andrew	United United	536

PFA PLAYERS' LEAGUE

1	Paul Simpson	Derby County/Wolves	389
2	Simon Grayson	Aston Villa	368
3	Alf-Inge Haaland	Leeds United	359
4	Steve Potts	West Ham United	358
5	John Salako	Coventry City	357
6	Dean Blackwell	Wimbledon	353
7	Robert Lee	Newcastle United	350
8	Jonathan Hunt	Derby County	335
9	David Tuttle	Crystal Palace	326
10	Kyle Lightbourne	Coventry City	321
11	Rob Savage	Leicester City	319
12	Richard Shaw	Coventry City	316
13	David Batty	Newcastle United	314
14	Kevin Gallacher	Blackburn Rovers	313
15	Frank Leboeuf	Chelsea	308
16	Tim Breacker	West Ham United	307
17	Bjorn Kvarme	Liverpool	305
18	Kenny Cunningham	Wimbledon	303
19	David Wetherall	Leeds United	301
20	Phil Babb	Liverpool	297
21	Paul Williams	Coventry City	291
22	Dean Holdsworth	Wimbledon	290
23	Dave Watson	Everton	289
24	Gareth Southgate	Aston Villa	287
25	Dennis Wise	Chelsea	286
25	David Seaman	Arsenal	286
27	Teddy Sheringham	Manchester United	285
28	Nigel Martyn	Leeds United	277
28	Andy Townsend	Aston Villa/Middlesbrough	277
30	Lee Sharpe	Leeds United	276
31	Andrew Liddell	Barnsley	274
31	Kevin Hitchcock	Chelsea	274
33	Lee Dixon	Arsenal	272
34	Ian Pearce	West Ham	269
34	Nicky Butt	Manchester United	269
36	Ugo Ehiogu	Aston Villa	266
36	Patrick Berger	Liverpool	266
38	John Hendrie	Barnsley	265
38	Kevin Muscat	Crystal Palace	265
40	Pontus Kaamark	Leicester City	260
41	Andy Roberts	Crystal Palace	259
42	Chris Powell	Derby County	258
43	Lars Bohinen	Blackburn Rovers	257
43	Robin Van Der Laan	Derby County	257
45	John Beresford	Newcastle United	256
46	Graeme Le Saux	Chelsea	254
47	Gary Mabbutt	Tottenham Hotspur	252
48	Richard Jobson	Leeds United	251
48	Jason Euell	Wimbledon	251
50	Robbie Fowler	Liverpool	247
51	Steve Clarke	Chelsea	245
52	Roger Cross	Tottenham Hotspur	244
52	Neil Redfearn	Barnsley	241
54	Andy Sinton	Tottenham Hotspur	240
54	Stewart Castledine	Wimbledon	240
56	Kasey Keller	Leicester City	239
57	Steve Lomas	West Ham United	237
58	Colin Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	231
59	Darren Pitcher	Crystal Palace	221
60	David Beckham	Manchester United	220
61	John Scales	Tottenham Hotspur	217
62	John Hartson	West Ham United	214
63	Danny Williamson	Everton	213
64	Gary Neville	Manchester United	209
65	Mark Wright	Liverpool	208
66	Spencer Prior	Leicester City	201
67	Nicky Eaden	Barnsley	196
68	Alan Wright	Aston Villa	192
69	Colin Calderwood	Tottenham Hotspur	191
70	Alan Shearer	Newcastle United	187
71	Iain Dowie	West Ham United	185
72	Lee Carsley	Derby County	168
73	Gianfranco Zola	Chelsea	159
74	Marc Edworthy	Crystal Palace	156
75	Mike Whitlow	Bolton Wanderers	105

INTERNET LEAGUE

1	Mike Madden	Poachers never change	608
2	Mary Ann Kennedy	Inverness Undecided	586
3	George Mijuskovich	Big Mac Europe	572
4	Graeme Dabnor	St Remy Strikers	569
5	Mary Ann Kennedy	Too Farr	561
6	Andrew Bates	Wetherby Racing 7	553
7	Chris Forde	Game of Two Pints	552
8	Barba Papa a la Bacon	Novote Spoilers	550
9	Susan Makin	Spud2	549
9	Richard Callis	Sydney Celtic FC	549
11	Michael Huddlestone	Pulp Faction III	548
12	P Bown	Bees XI	547
13	Tim Oldfield	Winster Warriors 1	546
13	Andy Robson	Club 18-30	546
15	Jeremy Dwyer	Nudge Nudge Wink Win	543
15	Brian O'Hare	The Warriors (Come o	543
17	Mary Ann Kennedy	Oilrig Pack RNG	540
17	Philip Ward	Wannabe Heroes XI	540
19	Michael Horan	St. Patrick's Chario	539
20	Graeme Dabnor	St Remy Streetfighters	538

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS

All 1997-8 matches in the FA Carling Premiership, FA Cup, Bell's Scottish League premier division and Tennents Scottish Cup count for points. Penalty shootouts do not count but results decided in this way will count for managers.

POINTS AWARDED

Goalkeeper		**Striker**	
Keeps clean sheet (per half)**	+3 points	Scores goal	+2 points
Scores goal	+20 points	**All players**	
Saves penalty	+1 point	On winning side	+1 point
Full backs/Central defender		Appearance†	+1 point
Keeps clean sheet*	+3 points	Scores hat-trick	+10 bonus points
Scores goal	+4 points	**Manager**	
Midfield player		Wins	+3 points
Keeps clean sheet*	+1 point	Draws	+1 point
Scores goal	+3 points		

POINTS DEDUCTED

Goalkeeper		Booked	-1 point
Concedes goal	-2 points	Concedes penalty	-1 point
Full backs/Central defender		Misses penalty	-1 point
Concedes goal	-1 point	Scores own goal	-1 point
All players		**Manager**	
Sent off	-3 points	Team loses	-1 point

** Must have played a complete half in the match to earn +3 points *Must have played for 75 minutes in the match †Must have played for 45 minutes in the match

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HOW TO ENTER

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- You must use a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone).
- Choose 1 goalkeeper, 2 full backs, 2 central defenders, 4 midfielders, 2 strikers and a manager.
- Do not spend more than 35 million.
- Do not choose more than two individuals (2 players or 1 player and 1 manager) from any one club.
- Once you have chosen your team, call the entry line, above, and follow the step-by-step instructions.
- You will be given a ten-digit personal indentification number (PIN) at the end of the call. You must keep a note of this number as you will need your PIN for making transfers and checking your team score.

A new team will score points on future games. 0891 calls cost 50p per minute. Your call will cost about double if made from a pay phone. In the event of there being more than one manager of the month, the winner will be chosen at random. In the event of there being more than one league winner, a tiebreak will operate.

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A guide to players, transfers and bargains

When a club ends its losing streak, the players may become bargains worth transferring into your team

At the risk of sounding like a Sixties' folk song, for every team, there comes a time in every season; the moment when the corner is turned. It could be the result of a lucky bounce, a poor back-pass by an opponent, the return from injury of a key player, or an inspired positional switch made by a new manager. It could even be a wonder goal — a shot that, previously, would have screamed just over the cross-bar, or rebounded heartbreakingly from the woodwork.

The upturn in fortune may not last long enough to salvage the campaign, but while it continues there is a spring in the step of every supporter, and Monday morning does not seem so bad; it is even bearable to turn to the sports pages and read the match report.

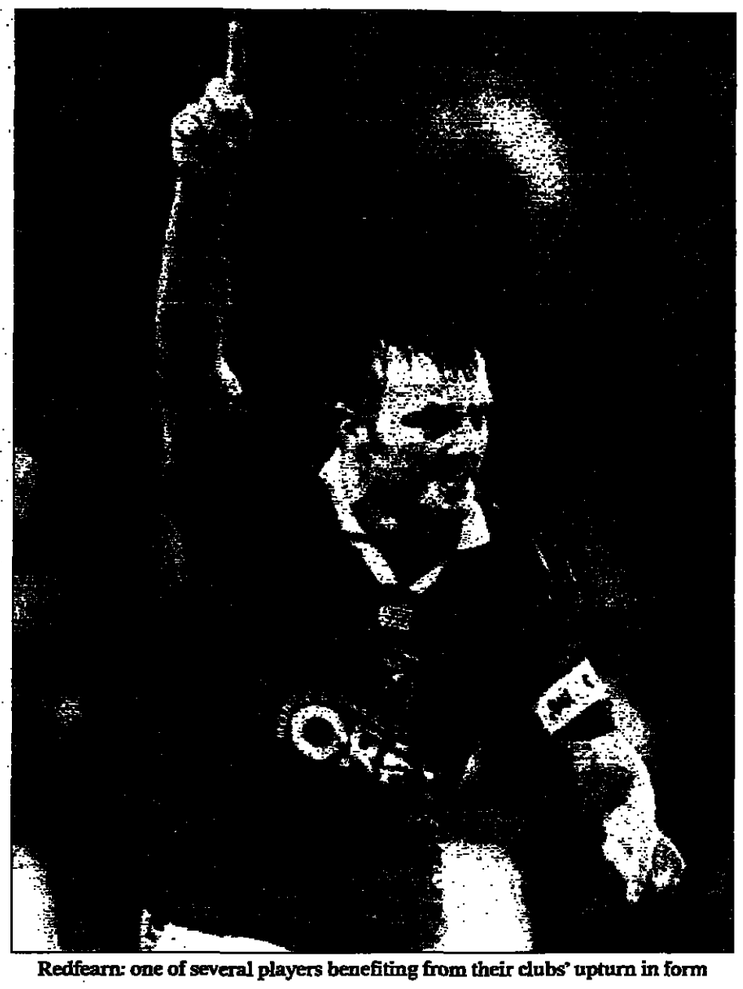
For followers of Sheffield Wednesday, Saturday's narrow defeat at West Ham notwithstanding, *The Pink 'Un* has started to make very good reading indeed. For ITF entrants who stuck by Owls players through the dark days of devaluation, there have been similarly rewarding experiences when trawling through the ITF lists. The arrival of Ron Atkinson as manager may not be as significant as the recovery from long-term injuries of Peter Atherton and Andy Booth. Whatever the reason, Paolo Di Canio and Booth have begun to justify earlier valuations, and Kevin Pressman has regained his confidence in goal. Liabilities have become assets once again.

Could there also be similar stirrings elsewhere in south Yorkshire? Barnsley recently took three points at Anfield, and were unlucky victims of the Wednesday revival at Hillsborough a week ago. On Saturday they came from behind to salvage a draw against Newcastle at Oakwell, in a game which featured well-taken goals from John Hendrie and Neil Redfearn, the captain. His curling shot to give his side the lead was an echo of the free-kick from which he scored against Wednesday. He and his colleagues will face the vital trip to White Hart Lane this Saturday with a renewed sense of optimism in the knowledge that their opponents' confidence is at as low an ebb as their own was some months ago.

In Scotland, a manager who faced early doubts from his club's followers, Wim Jansen of Celtic, has masterminded a steady improvement in his side's fortunes, resulting in their Scottish Coca Cola Cup final victory over Dundee United and a 1-0 win against Hearts, the league leaders, on Saturday.

Beware the false dawn, however. Any optimism in the Coventry City camp following their 4-0 win on Saturday will be tempered by the knowledge that they now face six difficult games, including a visit from Manchester United and a trip to the fortress of Upton Park. Even so, Darren Huckerby looks in good form: "We all love the lad. He's a complete and utter natural," Gordon Strachan, his manager, said after two powerful strikes had helped put paid to any hopes of an early Tottenham revival. That is one comeback which, like that of Captain Oates, may take some time.

D Huckerby (Coventry)	£2.5m
N Redfearn (Barnsley)	£3m
A Booth (Sheff Wed)	£3m
P Di Canio (Sheff Wed)	£3m
W Jansen (Celtic)	£4m



Redfearn: one of several players benefiting from their clubs' upturn in form

THIS WEEK'S MOVES

There are no transfers in ITF this week

HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER

☐ YOU MAY transfer as and when you wish according to your team transfer allowance. If a player or manager moves teams during the season, it may affect the composition of your team. You may adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points.

☐ EACH TEAM that was entered at the start of the season was allocated 60 transfers for the season and each team registering after that date had its number of transfers reduced by three per week up to December 13. Teams registered before noon that day were allocated an extra 20 transfers. Teams registered since then and from now on will be allocated 20 transfers for the rest of the season.

☐ THE LINE is open now and will remain open for the rest of the season. You may only make transfers by using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need ten digits for your PIN which you will have to tap in (not speak). Follow the simple instructions and tap in the five-digit codes of the players that you are transferring.

☐ YOU MAY make up to four transfers per call but may make as many calls as you wish to achieve the required amount of transfers.

☐ TRANSFERS made before 12 noon on any day will become effective for matches starting after that time. Transfers made after 12 noon will become effective for matches starting after 12 noon the following day.

☐ YOUR NEW player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred out remains part of your team score but he then ceases to score for you.

☐ CALLS COST 50p per minute and calls from a telephone box cost approximately twice as much.

Transfer number: 0891 884 628.
Outside the UK: +44 990 200 538.

DEFENDERS

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week	Total
10101	J Leighton	Aberdeen	2.00	–6	–11
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	–2	52
10301	M Bosnich	Aston Villa	3.00	0	36
10401	D Watson	Barnsley	1.00	0	–34
10501	T Flowers	Blackburn R	3.50	3	41
10601	K Branagan	Bolton W	1.50	0	38
10701	S Kerr	Celtic	4.00	0	0
10702	J Gould	Celtic	3.50	16	30
10801	E De Goey	Chelsea	3.00	7	60
10901	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	0	17
11001	C Nash	Crystal Palace	0.25	0	0
11002	K Miller	Crystal Palace	2.00	–5	24
11101	M Poom	Derby County	1.50	–2	26
11201	S Dykstra	Dundee Utd	2.00	9	18
11301	I Westwater	Dunfermline	1.00	7	9
11401	N Southall	Everton	2.00	0	3
11501	G Rousset	Hearts	3.50	9	55
11601	C Reid	Hibernian	1.50	–3	0
11602	O Gottskalksson	Hibernian	1.50	0	4
11701	D Lekovic	Kilmarnock	1.00	2	–2
11801	N Martyn	Leeds Utd	3.50	7	56
11901	K Keller	Leicester City	3.00	–4	50
12001	D James	Liverpool	3.50	8	48
12101	P Schmeichel	Manchester Utd	5.00	0	74
12201	S Howie	Motherwell	1.00	0	0
12301	S Given	Newcastle Utd	3.00	0	17
12401	A Goram	Rangers	5.00	0	29
12501	K Pressman	Sheffield Wed	2.00	5	–4
12702	P Jones	Southampton	1.00	3	0
12601	A Main	St Johnstone	0.50	2	20
12801	I Walker	Tottenham H	2.50	–7	16
12901	L Mikloško	West Ham Utd	2.00	0	4
13001	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	2.50	7	51

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week	Total
20201	L Dixon	Arsenal	3.00	–2	12
20202	N Winterburn	Arsenal	3.00	–2	27
20203	E Petit	Arsenal	3.00	–2	15
20301	S Staunton	Aston Villa	2.50	0	14
20302	A Wright	Aston Villa	2.50	0	16
20303	S Grayson	Aston Villa	2.00	0	17
20304	F Nelson	Aston Villa	2.00	0	8
20401	N Eaden	Barnsley	0.50	–2	–5
20402	N Thompson	Barnsley	0.50	0	–5
20403	D Barnard	Barnsley	1.00	–3	–5
20502	J Kenna	Blackburn R	3.00	0	27
20503	P Valery	Blackburn R	2.50	0	8
20601	N Cox	Bolton W	2.00	0	3
21901	M Whitlow	Bolton W	1.50	0	9
20602	R Elliott	Bolton W	2.00	0	4
20603	J Phillips	Bolton W	1.00	–2	–2
20701	T Boyd	Celtic	3.50	10	40
20702	T McKinlay	Celtic	3.50	0	2
20703	J McNamara	Celtic	3.00	10	37
20501	G Le Saux	Chelsea	4.00	4	28
20801	D Petrescu	Chelsea	4.00	4	44
20802	C Babayaro	Chelsea	2.00	0	20
20803	F Sinclair	Chelsea	2.00	4	13
20901	D Burrows	Coventry City	1.00	5	10
20903	M Hall	Coventry City	1.00	9	9
20904	R Nilsson	Coventry City	1.00	5	–1
21001	D Gordon	Crystal Palace	1.50	–2	13
21002	M Edworthy	Crystal Palace	1.50	–2	2
21004	J Smith	Crystal Palace	1.50	0	–1
21101	C Powell	Derby County	1.50	–2	12
21102	D Yates	Derby County	1.00	0	–3
21103	G Rowett	Derby County	1.50	–3	0
21401	A Hinchcliffe	Everton	2.50	4	1
21402	E Barrett	Everton	1.50	0	1
21403	T Phelan	Everton	1.50	0	–1
21404	M Ward	Everton	1.50	1	5
21501	G Locke	Hearts	1.50	1	12
21701	D Kerr	Kilmarnock	1.00	0	4
21801	G Kelly	Leeds Utd	2.50	–2	18
21802	D Robertson	Leeds Utd	2.50	3	21
21902	S Guppy	Leicester City	2.50	–1	33
22001	S Bjornebye	Liverpool	3.00	1	21
22002	J McAteer	Liverpool	3.00	5	8
22003	R Jones	Liverpool	3.00	0	11
22101	D Irwin	Manchester Utd	4.00	0	20
22102	G Neville	Manchester Utd	3.50	0	34
22103	P Neville	Manchester Utd	3.50	0	24
22301	S Watson	Newcastle Utd	3.00	–1	13
22302	W Barton	Newcastle Utd	2.00	0	14
22303	J Beresford	Newcastle Utd	2.00	0	16
22304	S Pearce	Newcastle Utd	3.00	–1	5
22401	A Cleland	Rangers	3.00	4	20
22402	S Stensaas	Rangers	3.00	4	25
22501	P Blondeau	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	–15
22502	I Nolan	Sheffield Wed	2.00	1	–7
22701	J Dodd	Southampton	1.50	1	13
22702	F Benali	Southampton	0.75	5	5
22703	S Charlton	Southampton	0.75	0	2
22801	C Wilson	Tottenham H	2.00	–1	–1
22802	J Edinburgh	Tottenham H	2.00	–2	–5
22803	S Carr	Tottenham H	2.00	–3	–5
22901	J Dicks	West Ham Utd	3.00	0	0
22902	A Impey	West Ham Utd	1.50	5	1
22903	T Breacker	West Ham Utd	2.00	1	0
23001	B Thatcher	Wimbledon	2.00	4	17
23002	K Cunningham	Wimbledon	2.00	4	13
23003	A Kimble	Wimbledon	2.00	4	6

MIDFIELD PLAYERS

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week	Total
30101	B O'Neil	Aberdeen	2.00	–2	–22
30201	T Adams	Arsenal	3.00	–3	13
30202	M Keown	Arsenal	3.00	–2	2
30203	G Grimandi	Arsenal	2.00	0	14
30204	S Bould	Arsenal	3.00	0	11
30301	G Southgate	Aston Villa	3.00	0	11
30302	U Ehiogu	Aston Villa	3.00	0	23
30401	A De Zeeuw	Barnsley	1.00	0	–18
30402	A Moses	Barnsley	0.50	–2	–20
30403	M Appleby	Barnsley	0.50	–2	–5
30502	C Hendry	Blackburn R	3.00	0	23
30504	S Henchoz	Blackburn R	2.50	1	16
30505	T Pedersen	Blackburn R	2.00	0	2
30601	G Taggart	Bolton W	1.50	0	5
30602	G Bergsson	Bolton W	1.00	–2	13
30603	C Fairclough	Bolton W	1.00	–2	–2
30604	M Fish	Bolton W	1.50	0	13
30701	E Annoni	Celtic	1.50	2	7
30702	M MacKay	Celtic	3.00	0	2
30703	A Stubbs	Celtic	3.00	10	39
30704	M Rieper	Celtic	3.00	6	29
30801	F Leboeuf	Chelsea	3.00	4	34
30802	M Duberry	Chelsea	3.00	4	23
30803	S Clarke	Chelsea	2.50	0	13
30804	B Lambourde	Chelsea	2.50	0	–1
30901	L Dalsh	Coventry City	1.50	0	0
30902	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	5	13
30903	P Williams	Coventry City	1.50	0	–5
31001	A Roberts	Crystal Palace	1.50	–2	11
31002	A Linighan	Crystal Palace	0.75	–2	6
31003	D Tuttle	Crystal Palace	0.75	0	0
31004	H Hreidarsson	Crystal Palace	1.00	–2	–3
31101	I Stimac	Derby County	2.50	–3	9
31102	J Laursen	Derby County	1.50	0	12
31201	S Pressley	Dundee Utd	2.00	4	16
31301	G Shields	Dunfermline	1.50	4	0
31401	S Bilic	Everton	2.50	0	–18
31402	D Watson	Everton	2.00	4	10
31404	C Tiler	Everton	1.50	4	8
31501	D Weir	Hearts	2.00	4	30
31601	J Hughes	Hibernian	2.00	–1	–9
31801	D Wetherall	Leeds Utd	2.50	4	31
31802	G Halle	Leeds Utd	2.00	4	19
31803	R Molenaar	Leeds Utd	2.00	0	9
31804	L Radebe	Leeds Utd	2.00	3	15
31901	M Elliott	Leicester City	3.50	–1	46
31902	P Kaamark	Leicester City	2.00	–1	27
31903	S Walsh	Leicester City	2.50	–1	33
31904	S Prior	Leicester City	2.00	–1	8
32001	M Wright	Liverpool	3.00	0	5
32002	D Matteo	Liverpool	3.00	5	16
32003	B Kvarme	Liverpool	3.00	5	26
30501	H Berg	Manchester Utd	3.50	0	27
32101	D May	Manchester Utd	3.50	0	0
32102	G Pallister	Manchester Utd	3.50	0	30
32301	P Albert	Newcastle Utd	2.50	–2	6
32302	D Peacock	Newcastle Utd	3.00	–2	7
32303	S Howey	Newcastle Utd	2.00	0	1
32304	A Pistone	Newcastle Utd	3.00	–2	7
32401	S Porrini	Rangers	3.50	4	30
32402	J Bjorklund	Rangers	3.50	4	29
32403	L Amoruso	Rangers	3.50	0	0
32404	R Gough	Rangers	4.00	1	5
32501	D Walker	Sheffield Wed	2.00	1	–1
32502	J Newsome	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	0
32503	P Atherton	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	1
32701	R Dryden	Southampton	1.00	0	–5
32702	C Lundekvam	Southampton	1.00	1	2
32704	K Monkou	Southampton	1.00	1	7
32601	S McCluskey	St Johnstone	0.50	0	5
32801	S Campbell	Tottenham H	2.50	0	1
32802	J Scales	Tottenham H	2.50	0	1
32803	R Vega	Tottenham H	2.00	0	3
32804	C Calderwood	Tottenham H	2.00	–3	1
32901	R Ferdinand	West Ham Utd	2.50	5	2
32902	R Hall	West Ham Utd	2.00	0	0
31403	D Unsworth	West Ham Utd	2.00	5	6
32903	S Potts	West Ham Utd	1.50	0	2
32904	I Pearce	West Ham Utd	2.00	5	–4
33001	C Perry	Wimbledon	2.50	0	13
33002	D Blackwell	Wimbledon	2.50	4	18

FIELD PLAYERS

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week	Total
40101	E Jess	Aberdeen	2.00	5	20
40102	P Bernard	Aberdeen	2.00	0	7
40201	M Overmars	Arsenal	5.50	4	42
40202	P Vieira	Arsenal	3.50	0	26
40203	S Hughes	Arsenal	2.00	0	3
40204	R Parlour	Arsenal	2.50	0	32
40205	D Platt	Arsenal	1.50	1	19
40301	M Draper	Aston Villa	3.00	0	26
40302	I Taylor	Aston Villa	2.50	0	24
40401	N Redfearn	Barnsley	3.00	8	42
40402	E Tinkler	Barnsley	2.00	1	19
40403	D Sheridan	Barnsley	1.00	1	12
40404	M Bullock	Barnsley	0.50	0	16
40501	J Wilcox	Blackburn R	3.00	5	23
40502	B McKinlay	Blackburn R	3.00	1	20
40503	T Sherwood	Blackburn R	3.00	5	32
40504	G Flitcroft	Blackburn R	3.00	1	24
40601	A Thompson	Bolton W	2.50	4	29
40602	S Sellars	Bolton W	2.00	1	19
40603	P Frandsen	Bolton W	2.00	1	27
40604	M Johansen	Bolton W	2.00	0	4
40605	J Pollock	Bolton W	2.00	4	27
40701	A Thom	Celtic	4.50	0	25
40702	P O'Donnell	Celtic	3.00	0	7
42503	R Blinker	Celtic	3.00	5	18
40704	C Burley	Celtic	3.00	9	38
40705	P Lambert	Celtic	3.00	6	11
40801	D Wise	Chelsea	3.50	1	30
40802	R Di Matteo	Chelsea	4.00	1	31
40803	E Newton	Chelsea	1.50	0	9
40804	G Poyet	Chelsea	3.00	0	28
40901	G McAllister	Coventry City	2.50	1	20
40902	T Soltvedt	Coventry City	1.50	2	21
40903	J Salako	Coventry City	1.50	0	15
40904	P Telfer	Coventry City	1.50	2	5
41002	S Rodger	Crystal Palace	1.00	0	22
41003	D Pitcher	Crystal Palace	0.25	0	0
41004	P Warhurst	Crystal Palace	1.50	1	24
41005	A Lombardo	Crystal Palace	3.00	1	22
41101	A Asanovic	Derby County	2.50	0	6
41102	S Eranio	Derby County	3.50	3	24
41103	D Powell	Derby County	1.50	0	6
41104	C Dailly	Derby County	1.50	1	19
41105	R Van Der Laan	Derby County	1.00	0	8
41106	J Hunt	Derby County	1.00	0	14
41201	R Winters	Dundee United	3.50	3	39
41301	A Smith	Dunfermline	3.50	0	43
41401	G Speed	Everton	3.50	2	38
41402	J Parkinson	Everton	1.50	0	0
41403	G Farrelly	Everton	1.50	2	9
41404	D Williamson	Everton	2.00	1	19
41405	J Oster	Everton	2.50	0	0
41501	N McCann	Hearts	3.50	3	47
41601	C Jackson	Hibernian	2.00	1	6
41602	B Lavety	Hibernian	2.00	0	20
41701	J McIntyre	Kilmarnock	2.00	0	0
41001	D Hopkin	Leeds Utd	3.50	2	25
41801	L Bowyer	Leeds Utd	3.00	0	15
41802	A Healand	Leeds Utd	2.00	–3	26
41803	L Sharpe	Leeds Utd	2.50	0	0
41804	B Ribeiro	Leeds Utd	2.50	1	7
41901	G Parker	Leicester City	2.00	0	10
41902	N Lennon	Leicester City	2.00	1	29
41903	M Izzet	Leicester City	2.00	1	35
41904	S Taylor	Leicester City	1.50	0	0
42001	S McManaman	Liverpool	6.00	6	49
42002	O Leonhardsen	Liverpool	3.00	6	23
42003	M Thomas	Liverpool	3.00	0	14
42004	J Redknapp	Liverpool	3.00	3	17
42006	P Ince	Liverpool	4.00	0	21
42101	D Beckham	Manchester Utd	8.00	0	44
42102	R Giggs	Manchester Utd	7.00	0	37
42103	R Keane	Manchester Utd	5.00	0	23
42104	N Butt	Manchester Utd	4.00	0	37
42105	A Cole	Manchester Utd	7.00	0	60
42201	B Davies	Motherwell	2.00	0	6
42301	R Lee	Newcastle Utd	5.00	1	25
42302	K Gillespie	Newcastle Utd	3.50	7	29
42303	D Batty	Newcastle Utd	2.50	0	17
42005	J Barnes	Newcastle Utd	3.00	1	35
42401	B Laudrup	Rangers	6.50	0	25
42402	P Gascoigne	Rangers	6.00	0	24
42403	J Thern	Rangers	3.00	2	16
42404	J Albertz	Rangers	4.00	0	26
42501	B Carbone	Sheffield Wed	3.00	1	33
42701	J Magilton	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	23
42502	M Pembridge	Sheffield Wed	2.00	2	19
42504	G Hyde	Sheffield Wed	1.00	1	7
42505	G Whittingham	Sheffield Wed	1.50	3	11
42702	R Slater	Southampton	0.75	0	6
42704	K Richardson	Southampton	0.50	3	19
42705	C Palmer	Southampton	2.00	2	20
42706	M Oakley	Southampton	1.50	2	5
42601	A Sekerlioglu	St Johnstone	0.75	0	11
42801	A Sinton	Tottenham H	3.00	1	15
42802	D Anderton	Tottenham H	3.00	1	5
42803	R Fox	Tottenham H	2.00	1	20
42804	D Howells	Tottenham H	2.00	0	16
42805	D Ginola	Tottenham H	3.00	1	27
42901	E Berkovic	West Ham Utd	2.50	3	44
42902	S Lomas	West Ham Utd	2.50	3	26
42903	J Moncur	West Ham Utd	2.00	0	13
43001	R Earle	Wimbledon	4.00	2	29
43002	N Ardley	Wimbledon	2.00	2	25
43003	V Jones	Wimbledon	2.00	0	17
42904	M Hughes	Wimbledon	2.00	2	26
43004	C Hughes	Wimbledon	1.50	0	16

STRIKERS

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week	Total
50101	B Dodds	Aberdeen	4.00	4	26
50201	I Wright	Arsenal	7.50	0	50
50202	D Bergkamp	Arsenal	8.50	0	47
50301	D Yorke	Aston Villa	6.00	0	26
50302	S Collymore	Aston Villa	5.00	0	19
50303	S Milosevic	Aston Villa	3.00	0	14
50401	G Hristov	Barnsley	1.50	0	9
50402	J Hendrie	Barnsley	1.50	2	11
51102	A Ward	Barnsley	2.00	2	21
50403	C Marcelle	Barnsley	1.00	0	4
50501	K Gallacher	Blackburn R	5.50	4	42
50502	M Dahlin	Blackburn R	4.00	0	12
50503	C Sutton	Blackburn R	6.00	2	54
50602	N Blake	Bolton W	3.50	3	29
50603	P Beardsley	Bolton W	2.00	1	15
53003	D Holdsworth	Bolton W	3.00	0	13
51601	D Jackson	Celtic	4.00	5	11
50703	T Johnson	Celtic	2.50	0	0
50704	S Donnelly	Celtic	4.50	1	18
50705	H Larsson	Celtic	4.50	6	32
50801	G Zola	Chelsea	7.00	1	46
50802	M Hughes	Chelsea	5.00	0	23
50901	D Dublin	Coventry City	5.00	2	39
50902	D Huckerby	Coventry City	2.50	6	26
50903	N Whelan	Coventry City	2.00	2	3
51001	N Shipperley	Crystal Palace	1.50	1	25
51003	B Dyer	Crystal Palace	2.00	0	17
51004	M Padovano	Crystal Palace	2.50	0	4
51101	D Sturridge	Derby County	4.00	1	23
51103	F Balano	Derby County	4.50	4	44
51104	D Burton	Derby County	1.50	0	4
51105	P Wanchope	Derby County	3.50	1	7
51201	A McLaren	Dundee United	3.00	1	19
51202	K Olofsson	Dundee United	4.00	2	37
51301	G Britton	Dunfermline	2.00	0	10
51401	D Ferguson	Everton	4.00	0	16
51402	N Barmby	Everton	3.00	1	11
51404	D Cadamarteri	Everton	2.50	1	2
51501	J Robertson	Hearts	3.50	0	23
51502	J Hamilton	Hearts	3.00	0	3
51602	S Crawford	Hibernian	3.00	1	7
51701	P Wright	Kilmarnock	5.00	1	17
51702	A Mitchell	Kilmarnock	2.50	3	18
51801	J Hasselbaink	Leeds Utd	3.00	1	22
51803	R Wallace	Leeds Utd	3.50	1	40
51804	H Kewell	Leeds Utd	2.00	0	1
51901	S Claridge	Leicester City	2.50	0	12
51902	E Heskey	Leicester City	4.50	1	21
51903	I Marshall	Leicester City	2.50	0	27
51904	G Fenton	Leicester City	2.00	1	13
52001	R Fowler	Liverpool	8.00	2	23
52002	P Berger	Liverpool	3.00	1	27
52003	K Riedle	Liverpool	4.50	0	21
52004	M Owen	Liverpool	4.50	4	8
52101	O Solskjaer	Manchester Utd	7.50	0	18
52102	T Sheringham	Manchester Utd	7.00	0	34
52103	P Scholes	Manchester Utd	6.00	0	24
52201	O Coyle	Motherwell	3.00	4	25
52202	T Coyne	Motherwell	3.00	2	28
52301	A Shearer	Newcastle Utd	10.00	0	0
52303	F Asprilla	Newcastle Utd	6.00	1	12
52304	J Tomasson	Newcastle Utd	2.00	0	8
52401	M Negri	Rangers	8.50	1	103
52402	S Rozental	Rangers	3.50	0	0
52403	G Durie	Rangers	3.00	0	10
52501	A Booth	Sheffield Wed	3.00	3	29
50702	P Di Canio	Sheffield Wed	3.00	4	32
52503	R Humphreys	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	4
52701	M Le Tissier	Southampton	7.00	4	17
52502	D Hirst	Southampton	2.50	2	25
52702	E Ostenstad	Southampton	4.00	0	8
52704	K Davies	Southampton	3.50	2	6
52601	G O'Boyle	St Johnstone	1.50	2	23
52602	R Grant	St Johnstone	1.00	0	16
52801	S Iversen	Tottenham H	3.50	0	10
52302	L Ferdinand	Tottenham H	7.50	1	21
52802	C Armstrong	Tottenham H	3.50	0	13
52803	J Domingues	Tottenham H	3.00	0	0
52901	J Hartson	West Ham Utd	4.50	2	46
52902	P Kitson	West Ham Utd	3.00	4	13
52903	I Dowie	West Ham Utd	1.50	0	9
53001	M Gayle	Wimbledon	4.00	1	17
53002	E Ekoku	Wimbledon	4.00	0	22
53004	C Cort	Wimbledon	3.00	1	5

MANAGERS

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week	Total
60102	A Miller	Aberdeen	1.50	0	1
60201	A Wenger	Arsenal	5.00	–1	26
60301	B Little	Aston Villa	2.50	0	13
60401	D Wilson	Barnsley	0.50	0	2
60501	R Hodgson	Blackburn R	3.50	3	34
60601	C Todd	Bolton W	1.50	1	14
60701	W Jansen	Celtic	4.00	6	32
60801	R Gullit	Chelsea	3.50	1	30
60901	G Strachan	Coventry City	1.00	3	14
61001	S Coppell	Crystal Palace	0.75	–1	12
61101	J Smith	Derby County	2.50	1	21
61201	T McLean	Dundee United	2.00	0	14
61301	B Paton	Dunfermline	1.00	1	16
61401	H Kendall	Everton	2.00	1	4
61501	J Jefferies	Hearts	3.50	0	34
61601	J Duffy	Hibernian	2.00	1	2
61701	B Williamson	Kilmarnock	1.00	1	10
61801	G Graham	Leeds United	3.00	1	26
61901	M O'Neill	Leicester City	2.50	–1	22
62001	R Evans	Liverpool	3.00	3	23
62101	A Ferguson	Manchester Utd	5.00	0	35
62201	A McLeish	Motherwell	1.00	3	4
62301	K Dalglish	Newcastle Utd	4.00	1	20
62401	W Smith	Rangers	5.00	1	32
62502	R Atkinson	Sheffield Wed	1.50	2	8
62701	D Jones	Southampton	0.50	3	8
62601	P Sturrock	St Johnstone	0.50	1	12
62802	C Gross	Tottenham H	2.00	–1	1
62901	H Redknapp	West Ham United	2.00	3	16
63001	J Kinnear	Wimbledon	2.00	1	18

NEWS

Britain puts health ban on EU beef

■ Britain plunged into a new confrontation with Europe over beef when Jack Cunningham imposed a unilateral ban on imports that do not meet the safety standards required of British meat.

The Agriculture Minister announced his decision after the EU voted 14-1 to delay the introduction of such checks throughout the Community until next April .....Pages 1, 4

'CJD' blood transfusion scare

■ Up to 3,000 people treated in 100 British hospitals may have been injected with blood products taken from a donor who died six weeks ago from new variant Creuzfeldt-Jakob Disease, the human form of BSE. None of them is to be told because the Health Department believes the risk is so slight that there is no reason to cause alarm..... Page 1

Traditional Hague

William Hague and Ffion Jenkins, who have lived together since July, will revert to tradition on the eve of their wedding and spend the night apart .....Page 2

Dropping in

There was only one certainty for a 56-year-old skydiver as he fell 2,000ft with a failed parachute. Bren Jones thought: "This is going to hurt" .....Page 3

Alan Clark sues

The reputation of Alan Clark, the Conservative MP, diarist, and self-confessed philanderer, was damaged by newspaper articles under his name but were written by a journalist, the High Court was told .....Page 5

Princess inquiry

The French magistrate leading the investigation into the death of Diana, Princess of Wales is to wind up his inquiry after a failed search for a Fiat Unox..... Page 6

Refugees murdered

An elderly Polish couple who fled to Britain as refugees after surviving the horrors of Stalin's death camps were murdered by fellow countrymen .....Page 7

Lawrence inquiry

An inquiry into the murder of Stephen Lawrence was flawed by "significant weaknesses, omissions and lost opportunities" according to the Police Complaints Authority ..... Page 9

Christian Aid row

Christian Aid condemned as "absurd" a decision by advertising watchdogs to ban a campaign on the suffering caused by Third World debt .....Page 10

Harman pressure

Labour MPs put Harriet Harman under further pressure yesterday over government plans to cut benefits for the disabled and single parents ..... Page 11

Jackal trial

The legal defence team of Carlos the Jackal became a one-man band after his lawyers stormed out of a Paris court claiming that his murder trial was illegal and unjust ..... Page 12

Cuban misery

News that Cubans will be able to celebrate Christmas as a holiday for the first time in 29 years caused widespread excitement. But most Cubans have little to look forward to ..... Page 13

Soft on dictators

The American Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, signalled a switch in United States foreign policy on Africa, softening a previously tough approach towards dictators ..... Page 14

Tigers ask for help

The once proud leaders of the former so-called "tiger" economies of South-East Asia, reeling from falling stock markets, called for help ..... Page 15

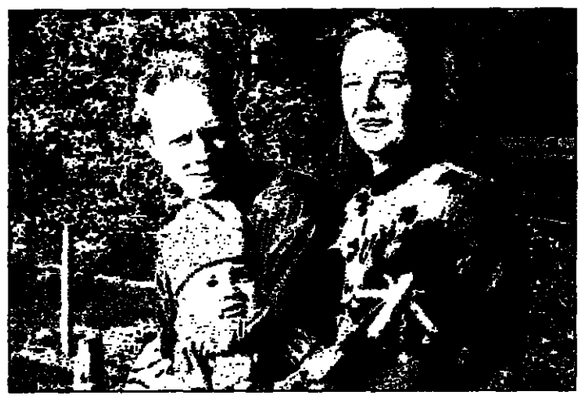
Coldest day from eastern Europe

■ Much of Britain will today experience the coldest day of winter with forecasters warning of below freezing conditions and snow. The coldest temperatures are expected in southern England as icy winds spread from eastern Europe. The London Weather Centre said everywhere across the South East would struggle to stay above zero today ..... Pages 1, 12



PHILIP HOLLIS

Protesters man a tree house in poplars at Kingston, Surrey, which are threatened by a development being considered by the council



BUSINESS

Asia turmoil: Japan unveiled a 10 trillion yen package to stabilise its beleaguered financial system on the day that a survey of business confidence suggested that the country may be heading back into recession .....Page 25

Bingo sale: The shake-up of the UK bingo industry continued as Bass sold its Gala bingo chain to a management buy-in team for £279 million in cash .....Page 25

Sears deal: The troubled retail group has sold Shoe Express to a company owned by Philip Green in a deal worth at least £26.7 million .....Page 25

Markets: The FTSE 100 rose 76.6 to 5,121.8. The pound fell to 102.4, falling 1.98 cents to $1.6329 and 4.02 pfennig to DM2.8904..... Page 28

SPORT

Cricket: England defeated Pakistan in the Sharjah Trophy by eight runs and qualified for the final. Their opponents will be known after the game between West Indies and India ..... Page 46

Football: England are set to take part in a pre-World Cup, four-nation tournament in Morocco in May alongside France, Belgium and the hosts ..... Page 48

Rugby union: Wasps and Bath, the top two teams last season, conceded 50 points at the weekend, signalling a new order at the head of the English club game .....Page 45

Boxing: No matter how much Naseem Hamed's admirers believe he is the last word in boxing, he will never achieve recognition until he wins over America ..... Page 48

ARTS

Torn curtain: As the National Film Theatre devotes a season to the new wave of Russian film-makers, one of its leading lights, Sergei Bodrov, explains the challenges ..... Page 32

Global spirit: Highlights of the weekend's world music festival at the Barbican included Nina Simone in good spirits, even if her voice may have lost some of its lustre ..... Page 32

Castle capers: In Croydon Phil Willmott revives the 18th-century melodrama *The Castle Spectre*, but the result is more *Carry On* than Gothic horror ..... Page 33

Sisters spurned: A new show at Manchester City Art Galleries is an admirable attempt to give some 20 Pre-Raphaelite women artists long-overdue recognition ..... Page 34

[illegible]

Can you help: Like a phoenix, Dorah came through the fire in the South African squatters' camp — but now she risks being plunged into darkness .....Page 16

Fifty ways: Confronted by an attractive and willing woman, men can find a multitude of reasons to justify going to bed with her, no matter what expressions of caution they might make .....Page 17

Lessons of jail: Education should serve a rehabilitative purpose for the inmates of prisons .....Page 35

Sales talk: Solicitors are now salespeople .....Page 37

Windows: Andrew Hinks thought he had nowhere to go as a window-dresser until he designed a jack-in-the-box. Now his business has a six-figure turnover ..... Page 39

The British Prime Minister has missed an opportunity to justify his legitimate ambition by throwing himself into a battle to obtain a small say in the administration of a future single currency in which London will not immediately participate. By patching up a Franco-German alliance against him he has forced a rather shaky compromise on the co-ordination of political economics — *Le Monde*

[illegible]

Preview: But was Elizabeth Taylor anything like the real Cleopatra? *Timewatch* (BBC2, 9pm). **Review:** Joe Joseph checks in at the hotel from hell .....Pages 42, 43

[illegible]

Ministerial incapacity

Ministers could justify exploring other ways of financing a safety net for the long-term sick .....Page 19

Still stalling

Saddam must be convinced that at least some members of the international community still have the stomach to take him on .....Page 19

Wedding blues

For all the happy symbolism there will still be Conservatives inclined to dismiss the nuances of the wedding list because they did not make the invitation list .....Page 19

[illegible]

ANATOLE KALETSKY

The threat to new Labour is that voters will stay exactly where they are but that Mr Blair will move so far to the Right that he leaves them high and dry .....Page 18

MAGNUS LINKLATER

The test of the Government's commitment to freedom of information will come when I confront a British general and he invites me in to riffle through his in-tray ....Page 18

LIBBY PURVES

There comes a point when even Mrs Soppy has to speak out against the drivelling infantilism advancing on Christmas .....Page 18

PETER RIDDELL

Geoffrey Robinson should not resign as a minister. His financial affairs are certainly strange and his explanations for his dealings with the Guernsey trust have been confusing and in some respects inconsistent. But nothing has so far emerged to suggest that he has done anything wrong as a Treasury minister ..... Page 11

[illegible]

Daphne Fielding, author; **N. C. Sainsbury**, librarian; **The Earl of Dartmouth** .....Page 21

[illegible]

Crime and Disorder Bill; NHS funding; safe havens for newborn; home births; holocaust claims; Gibraltar; Hong Kong tourism; *Britannia*; male bonding .....Page 19

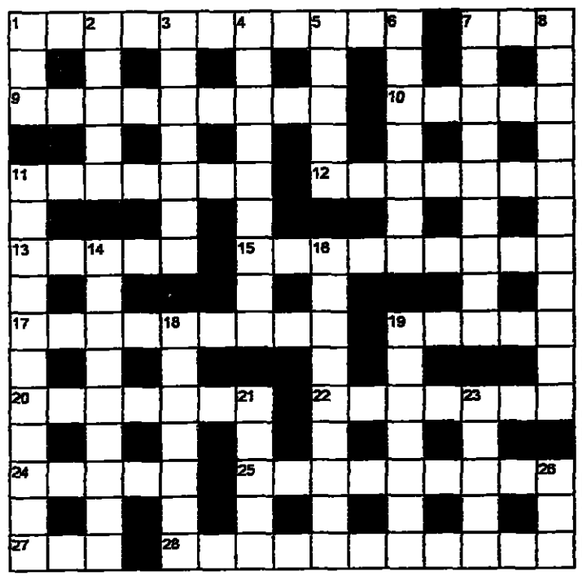
TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **HOMES**
End of the idyll: the family that failed to find *Utopia in the country* and came back to the city

■ **INTERFACE**
Why Desmond Llewellyn, gadget master of the Bond films, has trouble changing a light bulb

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,664



ACROSS

1 Eastern runner in dark suit and light shoes (11).
7 Rejected loan for vehicle (3).
9 One elderly relative to dishearten another? (5,4).
10 Endless unhappiness for one who's very close (5).
11 Grapple with books in Company wind-up (7).
12 An excitable type at the end of the match? (7).
13 French publication largely a feeble thing (5).
15 Celebrating superior speed in test (9).
17 Held up in pass in mounted action (9).
19 Vehicle carrying a certain weight of stones (5).
20 Flowers in porch I'd sprayed (7).
22 Seek support for painting school's opening (7).
24 Extra height on flag of European nation (5).
25 Logical reason to restrict supply of drink (9).
27 Girl's limited dowry (3).
28 Adjustable spanner giving capital service (5,6).

DOWN

1 Urge start of hobby, perhaps (3).
2 Man on board hauling in river crustacean (5).
3 Resentment, being grounded right away after prang (7).
4 Flooded at home, and not taken out? (9).
5 Henry, holding court, set up control on admission (5).
6 Tommy's ordered to cover platoon at first sign of trouble (7).
7 Petitioner in EC involved with BSE here (9).
8 Produces sound evidence of friction in cricket (11).
11 Remembers to engage the babysitter? (5,2,4).
14 He takes pains to provide satisfaction (9).
16 It warns other motorists of turnings ahead (9).
18 Hit out in temper after 'e produces rude name, perhaps (7).
19 Many travelling round found this line on map (7).
21 Poor horse having to be driven to work? (5).
23 A minor present (5).
26 Entertainment primarily followed by the older viewer (3).

Times Two Crossword, page 48

Solution to Puzzle No 20,663

D	I	S	C	O	N	C	E	R	T	I	N	G		
O		W		B		H		A		N		I		
T	W	E	E		S	K	I	M	P		C	O	V	E
N		L		T		A		I		U		E		
S	T	A	L	L	I	O	N		D	E	B	A	T	E
O			N		T			A		H				
U	T	O	P	I	A	N	I	S	M		T	H	E	N
H		R		T			U		O		G			
S	E	M	I		E	Q	U	E	S	T	R	I	A	N
G		C			P		C				M			
F	R	I	E	N	D		S	M	O	O	T	H	E	R
O		L		E		T		V		A		A		
T	U	B	E		T	I	A	R	A		N	E	W	S
N		S		E		R		D		G		A		
D	I	S	C	R	E	T	I	O	N	A	R	Y		

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp, St Mary's (Isles of Scilly, 11C (52F); lowest day max: Dunkeswell aerodrome Devon, 3C (37F); highest rainfall: Topcliffe North Yorkshire, 0.1in; highest sunshine: Jersey 5.8hrs

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 43.6% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the second half of 1996

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FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales will have a bitterly cold and windy day. Snow showers will affect eastern areas and parts of the west of England, and some persistent snow will spread from the south across England and south and east Wales during the day. Sheltered western districts will be mainly dry. Scotland and Northern Ireland will also be cold and windy, with some bright or sunny intervals in the northwest, but elsewhere it will be cloudy with some light snow in the east and over hills.

☐ **London, SE & Central S England:** raw and wintry. Patchy snow, mainly dying out by evening Wind E, strong. Max 2C (36F).

☐ **E Anglia, E & W Midlands, E & Cent N England:** cloudy. Sleet or snow showers. Wind E, fresh or strong. Max 3C (37F).

☐ **Channel Isles, SW England:** cloudy and windy. Rain or sleet, with snow over hills and moors and for a time at lower levels. Wind E, strong or gale. Max 4C (39F).

☐ **S & N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland:** windy, rather cloudy, mostly dry. Light upland wintry showers. Wind E, fresh or strong. Max 5C (41F).

☐ **NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Cent Highlands:** cloudy and windy with scattered light rain or sleet showers. Some inland snow. Wind E, fresh. Max 5C (41F).

☐ **Glasgow, Moray Firth, NE & NW Scotland, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland, Northern Ireland:** mixed cloudy and bright spells. Wind E or SE, fresh, locally strong. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **Republic of Ireland:** mostly dry, some wintry showers. Wind E, fresh or strong, locally gale. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **Outlook:** areas of snow and rain will move from the south, and there will be milder weather returning to all areas.



Changes to the chart below from noon: high S will move SE and decline; low L will move E and fill, as Low N moves NE and deepens. Low M will drift E and slowly fill

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=gulf; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain, sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	C	Max F	
Aberdeen	1.7	0.01	7	45	sh
Anglesey	X				
Aspatria	2.9	-	6	43	b
Aviemore	4.1	-	6	43	b
Belfast	-	0.01	7	45	c
Birmingham	-	0.01	5	41	c
Bognor R	1.1	-	5	41	c
Bournem'th	1.8	-	6	43	b
Bristol	0.5	-	6	43	c
Buxton	-	0.01	3	37	du
Cardiff	0.8	-	6	43	c
Clacton	-	0.03	7	45	c
Cleethorpes	-	0.01	7	45	sh
Colwyn Bay	X				
Cromer	-	0.02	6	43	du
Dunbar	X				
Eastbourne	0.1	0.01	6	43	r
Edinburgh	2.3	0.01	7	45	sh
Eskdalemuir	1.5	0.01	4	39	sh
Exmouth	3.9	-	6	43	c
Falmouth	-	-	8	48	c
Fishguard	2.3	-	6	43	s
Folkestone	-	0.03	6	43	c
Glasgow	3.5	0.01	6	43	c
Guernsey	X				
Hastings	-	0.01	6	43	c
Hayling I.	1.5	0.01	6	43	sh
Herne Bay	0.3	-	6	43	du
Hove	-	-	6	43	du
Hunstanton	X	0.02	6	43	c
Isle-of-man	2.2	-	8	46	b
Isle-of-wight	1.3	0.01	6	43	b
Jersey	5.8	0.01	7	45	s
Leeds	-	0.02	6	43	r
Lerwick	0.1	-	7	45	c
Leuchars	X				
Llandrindod	0.3	-	10	50	s
London	0.1	0.01	6	43	c
Lowestoft	-	0.04	6	43	c
Manchester	0.4	0.01	6	43	c
Margate	0.2	0.02	6	43	c
Minehead	0.3	0.01	5	41	c
Morecambe	0.2	-	7	45	du
Newcastle	-	0.05	7	45	sh
Newquay	X				
Norwich	-	0.01	6	46	c
Oxford	0.2	-	5	41	c
Penzance	X	0.02	7	45	sh
Poole	X				
Prestatyn	X	-	6	43	c
Ross-o-wye	-	0.01	5	41	c
Salcombe	X				
Saunton Sad	4.8	-	8	46	s
Scarboro'	-	0.01	6	43	d
Shrewsbury	X				
Skegness	-	0.01	7	45	c
Southend	-	0.01	7	45	c
Southport	0.8	-	6	43	c
Southsea	1.5	-	6	43	s
Stornoway	4.7	0.01	9	48	s
Swanage	3.8	-	7	45	s
Teignmouth	2.8	-	7	45	s
Tenby	2.5	-	7	45	b
Tiree	0.2	-	7	45	b
Torquay	1.6	-	10	50	b
Tynemouth	-	0.05	7	45	du
West-o-mare	-	-	6	43	c
Weymouth	4.0	-	6	43	s

ABROAD

Ajaccio	15	59	s	Corfu	13	55	f	Madrid	7	45	s
Akrotiri	20	68	s	C'phagn	2	36	c	Majorca	13	55	s
Alex'dria	21	70	s	Dublin	10	50	f	Malaga	16	61	f
Algiers	13	55	f	Dubrovnik	11	52	s	Malta	11	52	r
Amst'dm	7	45	c	Faro	16	61	f	Melb'rne	21	70	f
Athens	12	54	f	Florence	13	55	s	Mexico C	X		
B Aires	24	75	c	Frankfurt	7	45	c	Miami	17	63	r
Bahrain	21	70	s	Funchal	20	68	f	Milan	10	50	s
Bangkok	32	90	s	Geneva	5	41	s	Montreal	-10	14	X
Barbados	29	84	s	Gibraltar	16	61	f	Moscow	-19	-2	s
Barcelona	10	50	s	Helsinki	-7	19	sn	Munich	2	36	r
Beirut	17	63	f	Hong K	20	68	c	N Delhi	18	81	f
Belgrade	6	43	f	Innsbruck	5	37	c	N York	6	43	s
Berlin	4	39	c	Istanbul	9	48	r	Nairobi	X		
Bermuda	20	68	r	Jeddah	28	82	s	Naples	13	55	s
Biarritz	8	46	s	Jo'burg	X			Nice	12	54	s
Borde'x	5	41	f	Karachi	X			Oslo	3	37	f
Brussels	7	45	c	L Angels	18	61	f	Paris	7	45	f
Budapst	8	43	s	L Palmas	22	72	s	Peking	8	46	s
Cairo	20	68	s	Le Touq	8	46	f	Perth	27	81	s
Cape Tn	X			Lisbon	9	48	f	Prague	3	37	f
Christch	21	70	X	Locarno	9	48	c	Reykjavik	11	52	c
Chicago	2	36	s	Luxembg	4	39	c	Rhodes	19	66	f
Cologne	7	45	f	Luxor	21	70	s	Rio de J	34	93	f
Riyadh	19	66	s
Rome	13	55	s
S Fr'isco	10	50	s
Salzburg	2	36	c
Santiago	30	86	s
Seoul	4	39	c
Sing'por	32	90	f
St'kholm	0	32	sn
Strasb'rg	3	37	r
Sydney	31	88	f
Tangier	18	64	s
Tel Aviv	19	66	s
Tenerife	24	75	s
Tokyo	11	52	s
Toronto	-2	28	s
Tunis	15	59	f
Valencia	12	54	f
Vanc'ver	4	39	c
Venice	9	48	s
Vienna	6	41	c
Warsaw	-4	25	sn
Wash'ton	7	45	s
Wel'ngton	19	64	X
Zurich	3	37	f

Temperatures at midday local time yesterday X = not available

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	02.33	7.4	14.49	7.5	Leith	03.09	5.9	15.33	6.6
Aberdeen	01.51	4.6	14.15	4.6	Liverpool	-	-	12.03	9.8
Avonmouth	08.00	13.9	20.24	13.8	Lowestoft	10.07	2.7	22.34	2.8
Belfast	11.51	3.7	-	-	Margate	00.38	4.9	12.48	5.0
Cardiff	07.46	12.8	20.10	12.7	Milford Haven	07.00	7.3	19.23	7.2
Devonport	06.36	5.7	19.00	5.6	Newquay	05.51	7.3	18.14	7.2
Dover	11.46	7.0	-	-	Oban	06.21	4.2	18.51	4.1
Dublin (N Wall)	00.01	4.4	12.27	4.4	Penzance	05.21	5.8	17.42	5.7
Falmouth	08.07	5.5	18.31	5.4	Portland	07.31	2.4	20.01	2.3
Greenock	01.09	3.7	13.21	3.7	Portsmouth	-	-	12.06	4.9
Harwich	00.25	4.2	12.41	4.3	Shoreham	11.55	6.5	-	-
Holyhead	11.06	5.9	23.30	5.8	Southampton	11.34	4.9	23.55	4.7
Hull (Albert D)	09.56	9.1	19.21	8.9	Swansea	07.05	10.1	19.25	9.8
Ilfracombe	06.45	9.7	19.09	9.6	Tees	04.14	5.9	16.36	5.7
King's Lynn	07.02	7.4	18.27	7.2	Welton-on-N	00.16	4.4	12.32	4.4

MOON AND SUN

Sun rises: 8.01 am — Sun sets: 3.52 pm
Moon sets: 9.29 am — Moon rises: 6.45 pm

London 3.52 pm to 8.01 am
Bristol 4.02 pm to 8.11 am
Edinburgh 3.38 pm to 8.40 am
Manchester 3.50 pm to 8.20 am
Penzance 4.20 pm to 8.18 am

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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft — TUESDAY DECEMBER 16 1997

Ex-Amber Day chief steps into Sears's shoes

BY JASON NISSE

PHILIP GREEN, the former chief executive of Amber Day, yesterday bought the 185-strong Shoe Express retail chain from Sears and is in negotiations to buy its Shoe City operation. The sale to Mr Green's Alnery group — which fought off competition from Olivers and Stead & Simpson to buy the operation for £8.3 million — will crystalise a £65 million loss for Sears.

In total, Sears's withdrawal from the British shoe retailing business — which it one dominated though the British Shoe Corporation (BSC) and brands such as Saxone, Dolcis and Freeman Hardy Willis — will have cost it more than £260 million.

Sears is still attempting to sell its Freemans home shopping business. The £365 million purchase by Littlewoods was blocked by Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, and Sears is now looking for another buyer. Sears had said it was considering taking the Department of Trade and Industry to judicial review, but is now believed to have given hope that this might be successful.

The Shoe Express sale was masterminded by David James, the company doctor brought in to sort out BSC when Sears dismissed Liam Strong, its chief executive, this year. Mr James attempted to sell BSC in one piece, but the bids were too low, and has since sold the in-store concessions to Nine West of the US for £9 million and Dolcis to a group led by Alexon for £1.6 million.

Mr James said the Shoe Express disposal leaves BSC with only two businesses to sell — the 80-strong out-of-town operation, Shoe City, and Cable & Co, the upmarket operation that has 40 outlets.

Mr Green is in negotiations about Shoe City, which is expected to be sold early next year, and Cable has yet to be put on the market.

The deal for Shoe City may lead to the stores being operated by Sports Division, the leisure retailer backed by Mr Green and which bought Sears's Olympus sports operation in November 1995. Under the terms of the Shoe Express deal Mr Green will take on the management of 136 Shoe Express stores, which are due to be closed at the end of January. Mr Green was concerned that Sears might launch a fire sale of Shoe Express stock and so undercut margins.

Mr Green operates a 105-strong shoe chain under the brand name Mark One and owns the Owen Owen department stores. "I intend to convert 75 shops immediately to the Mark One concept and we then want to see if the rest are viable as a small, stand-alone, chain," he said.

Sears will retain 53 freeholds and long leaseholds of Shoe Express shops. Mr James said he expected to sell them for at least their net book value of £18.7 million. The deal would recoup as much as £18 million more to Sears as closing the business down and preserve hundred of jobs, he added.

Sears shares, which stood at 95p earlier this year, rose 2½p to 49½p yesterday.

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BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET PRICES

FTSE 100	5121.8	(+76.6)
Yield	n/a	
FTSE All share	..	
Nikkei	15909.39	(+5.09)
New York:		
Dow Jones	7887.28	(+48.98)*
S&P Composite	957.66	(+4.27)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5½%*	(5½%)
Long Bond	102²⁸/₃₂*	(102²⁸/₃₂)
Yield	5.93%*	(5.93%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	7⅛%	(7⅛%)
Liffe long gilt future (Mar)	121¼	(120¹⁶/₃₂)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6345*	(1.6505)
London:		
$	1.6330	(1.6522)
DM	2.8906	(2.9226)
FFr	9.8906	(9.8124)
SFr	2.3345	(2.3694)
Yen	213.57	(215.30)
£ Index	102.4	(103.7)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.7715*	(1.7770)
FFr	5.9330*	(5.9500)
SFr	1.4313*	(1.4370)
Yen	131.05*	(130.25)
$ Index	108.5	(108.3)

Tokyo close Yen 131.43

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Feb) $17.50 ($17.50)

GOLD

London close $286.05 ($282.65)

* denotes midday trading price

Japan unveils £47bn deal as gloom returns

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR

JAPAN yesterday unveiled a Y10 trillion package (£47 billion) to stabilise its beleaguered financial system on the day that a survey of business confidence raised fears that the country may be heading back into recession.

An International Monetary Fund official said the fund would be revising its growth forecast for Japan in its *World Economic Outlook* to be published this week. Meanwhile, Ignazio Visco, chief economist of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development said its forecast of 1.7 per cent growth for Japan in 1998, published yesterday, may have to be revised even lower because of deteriorating conditions in Asia. Six months ago, the OECD was forecasting 2.9 per cent growth.

Osamu Watanabe, Japan's Vice Trade Minister, said Japan now faced a severe situation. He was speaking after the Bank of Japan released its latest *tankan* survey showing that business confidence had deteriorated sharply since September and that companies expected a worsening of the climate in the months ahead.

A panel of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party yesterday called on the Government to issue Y10 trillion of bonds to the Deposit Insurance Corp, a package designed to strengthen the capital of troubled financial institutions. The panel also said that public money will be used to buy preferred stock and subordinated bonds to be issued by financial firms.

These recommendations are likely to be approved today by the LDP along with a tax package to stimulate the economy. Although Japanese stocks traded in London were lifted by the news, the sense of crisis in Asia hardly lifted. Mr Visco said any forecasts for South Korea could be regarded as no more than educated guesses, but he suggested that the OECD's newest member may see no growth at all in 1998.

South Korean markets enjoyed a rare respite yesterday, the stock market rising more than 7 per cent and the won bouncing from last week's daily all-time lows. This improved performance appeared to stem from hopes of an international financial bailout or, at least, quicker disbursements from the IMF-led $57 billion dollar rescue.

However, IMF officials, who met yesterday to discuss the emergency in Asia, ruled out speeding up payments or increasing the size of the rescue.

According to television reports in Seoul, the South Korean authorities are intending to float the won today. Until now, it has imposed a 10 per cent daily trading band on the currency, which meant last week that the currency markets were open for a few minutes only because the won fell to its limit almost immediately.

The yen came under intense pressure after publication of the *tankan* survey, falling near to a new 5½-year low against the dollar of Y131.50.

Sterling fell, hitting a seven-week low against the dollar and a one-month low against the mark. Traders cited the OECD's forecast of a significant slowdown in growth.

Asia's appeal, page 15
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OECD predicts soft landing for UK

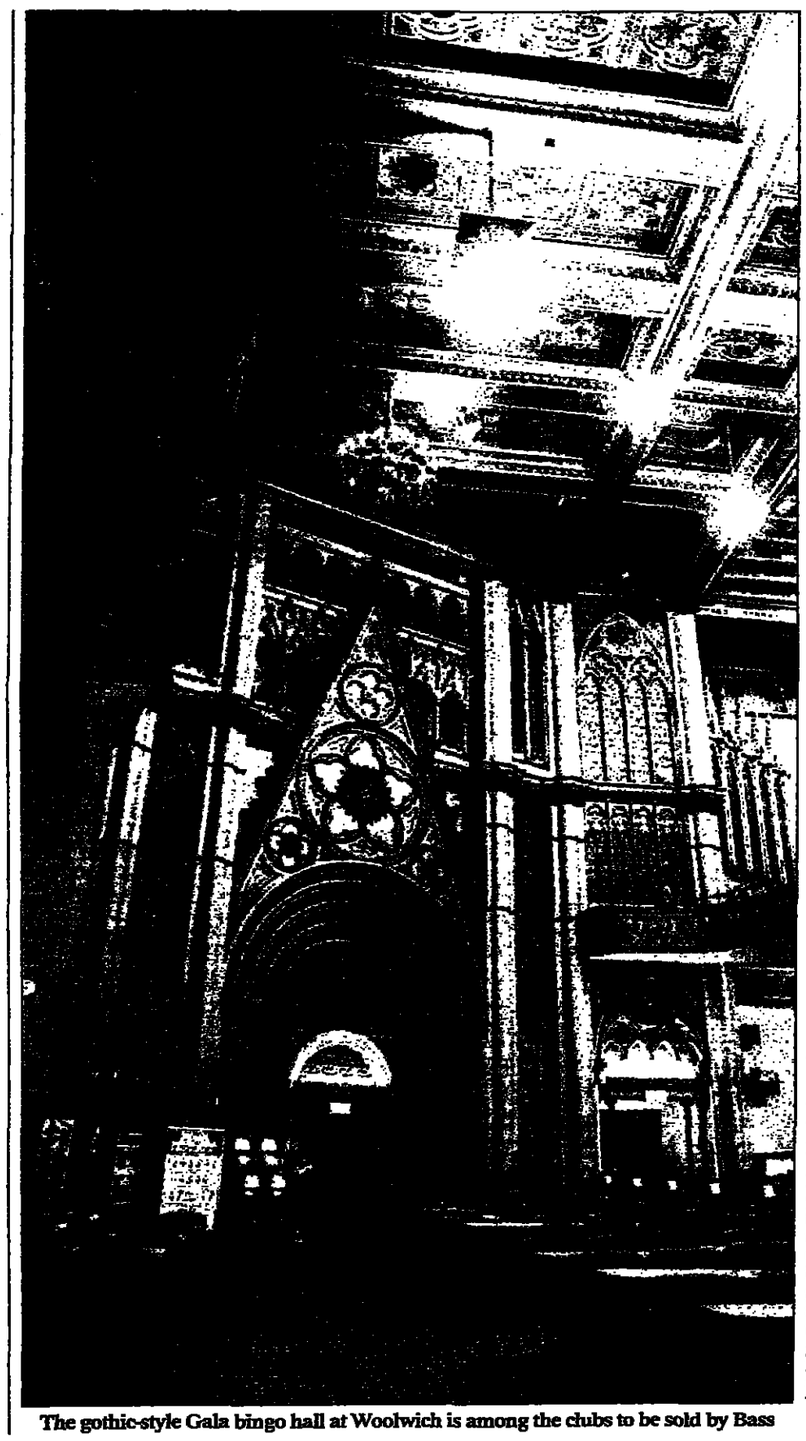
THE British economy is heading for a soft landing next year, with growth falling to a more sustainable pace and inflation settling near target, according to the latest forecast by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

The OECD said that its forecasts assume that base rates will not be raised again.

Growth is expected to be 2.2 per cent in 1998 down from 3.4 per cent this year. Job creation is thought likely to continue until early next year, implying a further small fall in unemployment. However, the OECD appears sanguine that any wage pressures as the labour market tightens would be contained by a fall in import prices, courtesy of the streng pound.

The forecast said that the slowdown in growth should be gradual despite high interest rates, the tightening of fiscal policy and the unwinding of windfall effects, because confidence is high.

The risks to this optimistic scenario are that consumer spending does not slow down as expected and the Monetary Policy Committee is forced to take strong action against overheating, causing a significant slowdown in growth.



The gothic-style Gala bingo hall at Woolwich is among the clubs to be sold by Bass

Bass sells bingo clubs for £279m

BY ADAM JONES

THE shake-up of the UK bingo industry continued yesterday as Bass sold its Gala bingo chain to a management buy-in team for £279 million in cash.

Led by John Kelly, the former head of Mecca's bingo division, the management team is backed by PPM Ventures, the venture capital arm of the Prudential.

Mr Kelly, currently chief executive of Cascade Clubs, will become chief executive of Gala. Nat Solomon, the former chairman of Tottenham Hotspur Football Club and current chairman of Crown Leisure, will become non-executive chairman.

The deal follows the sale of Vardon's bingo clubs to Hambro European Ventures for £30.5 million last month, and speculation that First Leisure is considering a disposal.

Gala's £279 million price includes £43 million to cover cash balances. Bass had to write down the value of Gala's 130 clubs, which include a Gothic-style hall at Woolwich, southeast London, by £177 million last month, as full-year profits slumped 22.6 per cent to £24 million. The book value of net assets and cash was £232 million. Bass said it would make a £12 million profit on the sale.

Profits across the industry have been depressed as competition from the National Lottery ate away at bingo's traditional customer base. However, venture capitalists say it is recovering, encouraged by government deregulation of advertising and new sites on the edge of towns, attracting younger players. Bass said the net proceeds of the deal would go to reduce debt.

Numbers game, page 29

BA battle with Laker continues

BY JON ASHWORTH

BRITISH AIRWAYS is squaring up for a renewed courtroom clash with Sir Freddie Laker, pioneer of cut-price transatlantic travel, after a Florida court overturned a ruling dismissing the action.

Laker Airlines, which is based in Florida, launched an action against BA in June, alleging that it had used its dominant position to prevent Laker from obtaining desirable take-off and landing slots at Gatwick. Laker alleges that landing slots for its London-to-Miami service were too late to make connecting flights to Central and South America and the Caribbean, depriving it of potential business.

After a submission by BA, the US District Court in Fort Lauderdale last month moved to dismiss the action, but Laker's successful appeal has cleared the way for the case to proceed.

The two airlines are expected to submit written memoranda next month. BA had no immediate comment last night.

FTC tells Diageo to sell brands

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

GUINNESS and Grand Metropolitan yesterday cleared the final obstacle to their merger after seven months when the US Federal Trade Commission signalled its approval of the £24 billion deal on condition that the drinks group sells its Dewar's whisky and Bombay gin brands.

Shares in the merged company, which will now be renamed Diageo, are expected to start trading on the stock market tomorrow after final legal approval yesterday in the UK High Court. The FTC said the sale of the global rights to the two brands was the largest it had ordered but was needed to protect US consumers.

In a joint statement, the two companies said they regretted the need to sell brands but were pleased the deal could go ahead. Diageo has six months to dispose of the brands. Credit Suisse First Boston will handle the sales.

Analysts said there were few surprises in the FTC agreement, with Dewar's regarded as the obvious choice for disposal after the EU competition ruling that it must sell the brand in Europe.

The two brands could fetch up to £800 million. Dewar's is valued at up to £700 million, selling about 2.7 million cases worldwide a year. Bombay Gin sells about 600,000 cases. The rapidly growing brand could fetch up to £100 million.

Robinson brokers coal deal

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

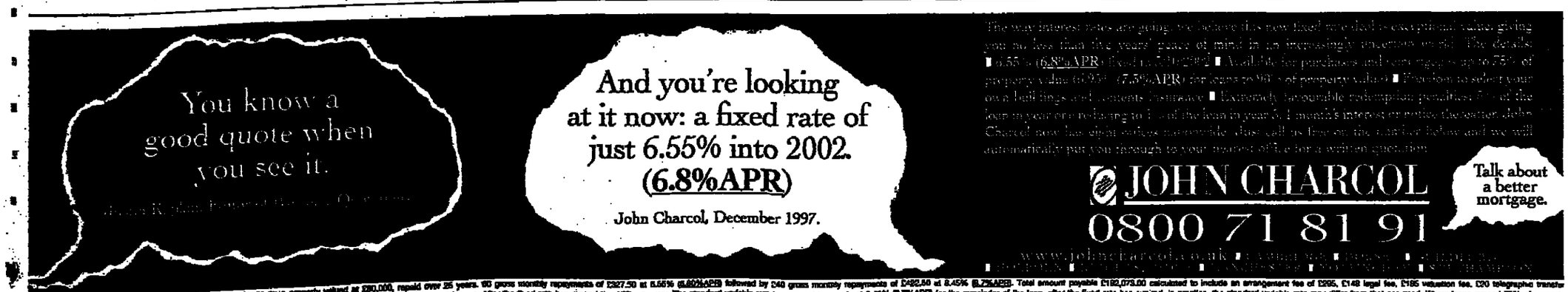
THE GOVERNMENT yesterday struck an eleventh-hour deal with the electricity generators and RJB Mining to shore up the coal industry until the end of June. The agreement was brokered by Geoffrey Robinson, Paymaster General.

Under the arrangement, PowerGen — which had not bought any RJB coal — is to buy 1.1 million tonnes and National Power and The Energy Group will bring forward deliveries of coal in contracts they had already arranged. RJB can now maintain current production.

Contracts between RJB and the generators expire at the end of March. As it had not negotiated sufficient deals for coal beyond that period it faced a huge over-production problem. National Power is to bring forward 350,000 tonnes of the coal it had already ordered after March while The Energy Group will bring forward 250,000 tonnes.

Smaller producers are now likely to press for the same terms. RJB is to extend redundancy terms for mineworkers until the end of June. Generous redundancy packages inherited from British Coal had been due to expire at the end of March but unions had pressed for an extension.

Robinson faces heat, page 26



Robinson faces the heat from coal producers

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

PRESSURE is mounting on the Government over its handling of the crisis in the coal industry. Geoffrey Robinson, Paymaster General, yesterday faced growing unrest from the industry as he tried to broker deals with the three coal-burning generators to shore up supply arrangements with RJB Mining.

Mr Robinson will tonight hear a demand from two of the smaller coal producers that there should be no sweetheart deals with RJB that would disadvantage rivals. Talks will take place with Midlands Mining and Scotland Mining, which sought clarification from the Prime Minister over his statement to the House of Commons last week that arrangements had been agreed between RJB Mining, National Power, PowerGen and The Energy Group to secure supplies beyond the March 31 expiry of current contracts until the end of June.

With the Government having activated a short-term plan to save the coal industry, which faced the threat of closure of up to eight pits and loss of 5,000 jobs, it is now facing increasing criticism that it is saving RJB at the cost of other producers.

Celtic Energy, the biggest Welsh mining company, is also likely to demand a level playing field. It has suggested that the output of Welsh collieries could double to six million tonnes and will be keen that any market for extra coal that the Government may squeeze out of the generators will not all go to RJB.

Separately, Standard & Poor's, the credit rating agency, gave warning that the Government's "crisis management" action on coal may lead to less competition in electricity generation. It said that the government inquiry into the electricity trading market, announced in October, was motivated by a concern that competition in generation sustains downward pressure on wholesale electricity prices. But it said the moratorium on new gas-fired stations was likely to impede generation competition and lower prices because coal-fired stations dominate the price-setting area of the market.

Confusion has also surrounded the deals between RJB and the generators, with conflicting reports about what has been agreed and by whom.

Utilities face threat of millennium bug penalty

BY CHRIS AYRES

PUBLIC utilities were warned yesterday that they could be penalised for breach of licence if they fail to tackle the millennium bug problem.

The threat was made by Don Cruickshank, chairman of Action 2000, the government-funded group established to confront the problem of computers that do not recognise the date 2000. The cost of making computers millennium-proof in the UK is estimated to be more than £31 billion, and is likely to be worsened by the introduction of the European single currency at the same time.

Mr Cruickshank, who works one day a week at Action 2000 with a budget this year of just £1 million, was responding to accusations of government complacency. There is widespread concern that the UK economy will face chaos if companies do not begin to take action. Public services could also be affected, with a leading doctor warning last week that 1,500 hospital patients could die in the first weeks of 2000 because of the problem.

"This is not a case of red tape and procrastination," Mr Cruickshank said. "If I found that a company was putting an industry at risk, I would act. It would result in a breach of licence for utilities, and if there was a company which failed to appreciate the scale of the problem I would expect the rest of the industry to refuse to interconnect with it."

Mr Cruickshank emphasised that the millennium bug was mainly a business issue, and he urged companies to take early action. "I see my role as being to raise the tempo. It is not an IT or a government issue. This is becoming a real business issue, and the message is: get a grip."

He said the Government would take control of the problem in the public sector, and, justifying his threat to privatised utilities, said: "Voters will want the Government to help continue the supply of water, electricity and telecoms."

Action 2000 will launch a Web site and a telephone hotline early next year, and is encouraging companies to share information on how to tackle the bug. Mr Cruickshank said smaller businesses would have to rely on large companies to help them out.

Mr Cruickshank refused to estimate the cost of the millennium bug to industry. "It's a pointless exercise. It will have a dampening effect on the British economy, as bright IT people are made to solve a dull problem." He said the shortage of IT professionals would mean higher wage costs for businesses and the emergence of "cowboy" IT companies.

City Diary, page 29

Pain joins the board at Abbey National

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

ABBEY NATIONAL has promoted Mark Pain, group financial controller, to the executive post of finance director, making him the youngest employee ever to be appointed to the board.

Mr Pain, 36, will take up his new position in the new year.

The boardroom reshuffle, announced after Ian Harley's appointment in October as chief executive designate to replace Peter Birch, also included the appointment to the board of Ian Treacy.

Mr Treacy is currently company secretary and will be joining the board on January 1, with responsibility for group risk management. Mr Treacy will be retaining the office of company secretary.

Mr Harley has made it clear that he would like to make a substantial acquistion in the fund management or life assurance sectors.

The bank also confirmed yesterday that Charles Toner, deputy chief executive, will head up a new wealth management division.

This will include the existing Glasgow and Dunblin life assurance activities, the offshore retail businesses in the Channel Islands, Isle of Man, Gibraltar and Hong Kong, together with the onshore retail business of Cater Allen, the stockbroker.

The new division will target high net worth investors who have salaries or liquid assets of £100,000 or more, the bank said.



FOUNTAIN Forestry Holdings, which provides forestry services in Britain and America, lifted pre-tax profits 32 per cent to £955,000 for the year to September 30. Barry Gamble, the chairman, pictured, saw earnings rise 11 per cent to 7.9p a share. There is a final dividend of 1.83p, making a 2.75p total. Turnover rose 16 per cent to £21.8 million. The company floated on the Alternative Investment Market in December last year.

Growth in pensions helps Standard Life to rise 20%

BY GAVIN LUMSDEN

STANDARD LIFE, the mutual insurance company, yesterday said that it had enjoyed an exceptional year with new business worldwide up 20 per cent to £3.3 billion. This is a 50 per cent advance on 1995 when the insurance market slumped.

In the UK, new business income from life and pensions policies leapt 30 per cent to £459 million. New annual premiums were up 44 per cent to £272.4 million. The company was particularly successful in personal pensions where annual premiums jumped 69 per cent to £154.6 million and single premiums increased 38 per cent to £869.4 million. Business in unit trusts and Peps rose 38 per cent to £167.4 million.

Sales of managed and equity investment bonds, however, fell 15 per cent to £31.4 million, reflecting the company's withdrawal of with-profits bond products a few years ago.

The company also increased its overall share of the life and pensions market from 6 per cent to 6.9 per cent. Its share of the intermediary IFA market also rose from 10.6 per cent to 11.7 per cent.

Despite reforming its pricing structure two years ago, so that charges are taken throughout the life of a policy not just in the first few years, Standard has not seen an increase in early terminations of policies.

The company scored higher than average persistency figures in a recent report from the Personal Investment Authority showing that policyholders had not exploited high transfer values.

Mortgage rate put on hold at Nationwide

BY GAVIN LUMSDEN

NATIONWIDE, the country's largest building society, yesterday gave an early Christmas present to homeowners when it confirmed it was not implementing last month's rise in base interest rates. However, it will raise its savings rates in the new year.

The announcement, a week after the Halifax moved to 8.7 per cent in line with other high street lenders, means Nationwide's standard variable rate stays at 8.1 per cent. This leaves its borrowers with a £50,000 mortgage £1,911 better off over seven years. A Nationwide spokesman said that its rate would rise only if base rates increased again.

Meanwhile, Bradford & Bingley, the second-largest mutual society, which kept its standard variable rate steady at 7.95 per cent last month, said it expects base rates to go up again in January. "We want to maintain our rate advantage over the banks, but just what the gap will be depends on the competitors."

CAT extends drug trials

BY PAUL DURMAN


Chiswell: R&D competition

HUMAN testing of three more potential drugs is expected to begin next year at Cambridge Antibody Technology (CAT), which raised £41 million in a flotation in March, raising to five the number of products in clinical development.

Technicione, CAT's US partner, will shortly begin recruiting patients for trials of a brain cancer product. The two companies are also planning a separate solid tumour study next year, while CAT expects to begin tests of an antibody to prevent fibrosis, one of the biggest problems in eye surgery.

David Chiswell, chief executive, said CAT will license in further therapeutic "targets" to ensure internal competition for limited research and development resources.

CAT's R&D spending will total £18 million (£8.3 million), in the year to September 30. With only £1.1 million (£2.1 million) of revenues, including a payment from Knoll, CAT's partner on rheumatoid arthritis treatment, the company reported a pre-tax loss of £8.4 million (£3.3 million loss).

Acer plant to create 1,000 jobs in Wales

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 1,000 jobs are to be created in Wales with the opening of a £25 million plant by Acer, the Taiwanese computer business.

The company will produce computer monitors and peripherals at the factory in Wentloog, near Cardiff. The move is an important boost for inward investment after the recent decision by Toyota to choose France rather than the UK for new production. It will also ease concern that the troubles in Far Eastern markets will curb development in Europe by Asian companies.

Ron Davies, the Welsh Secretary, said: "This is tremendous news for Wales and for Britain, with another major overseas manufacturer choosing to invest here. We will see 1,000 direct new jobs created in a project which will link with a number of our existing inward investors in the electronics sector."

Wales has been at the centre of rows about regions luring inward investment from other areas. But Mr Davies denied that the Acer project had been "poached" from elsewhere in Britain. "We have worked as a cohesive team to secure this project. Our professional approach — which has respected the arrangements agreed with all other government departments — and the good commercial reasons for Acer choosing Wales, are factors that secured the project."

Acer will get grants from the regional selective assistance scheme on a gradual basis, increasing with the number of people employed in the factory. The plant will be built by the Welsh Development Agency for lease to Acer while the land, road access and environmental work will be provided by Cardiff County Council.

Graham Jackson, Acer UK's managing director, said: "This announcement reflects the tremendous growth we have shown over the past 12 months. As we continue to grow, the intention is to open more manufacturing plants in the UK to cope with the increased European demand for our PC, notebook and server products."

Production at the site will begin next year with full production expected to be reached within five years.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Westminster Health sells homes to rival

WESTMINSTER HEALTH CARE HOLDINGS, the private nursing home group, is selling 12 care homes in the UK to Tamaris, a smaller rival, with a price tag of a little more than £20 million. The deal, which involves the transfer of 698 beds, includes seven homes in England and five in Northern Ireland. Proceeds from the deal will be ploughed into other healthcare markets, Westminster said, while Tamaris emphasised that the move would strengthen its position in the long-term care market. The deal, which is subject to the approval of Tamaris shareholders, will be structured as a mix of £15.5 million in cash and the rest in shares.

Westminster also announced it has teamed up with Holiday Retirement Corporation, the US retirement home firm, to form a healthcare financing division. The company will be called Atlantic Healthcare Finance and is intended to tap into the growing sale and leaseback market for healthcare properties.

Wedgwood leads world

WATERFORD WEDGWOOD has secured its position as the world's largest ceramics and crystal manufacturer after gaining control of more than 50 per cent of Rosenthal, of Germany. The enlarged group will have sales in excess of Ir£530 million (£470 million), boasting a leading position in markets in America, Japan, the UK, Ireland and continental Europe. The company expects to incur a Ir£27 million charge against the restructuring of the loss-making German group.

BICC's double delight

BICC COMMUNICATIONS, a subsidiary of BICC Group, the UK cables and construction conglomerate, has won two contracts worth more than £100 million over the next three years. BICC Communications, which was formed last May, will work with Cable & Wireless Communications to supply optical and metallic cable solutions for nationwide telecommunications and cable television networks. The other contract is to supply cable to ESAT Telecom in the Republic of Ireland.

Healthcall approached

SHARES of Healthcall Group rose 9p to 79p yesterday after the medical services company said it had received a takeover approach from its executive directors, backed by NatWest Equity Partners "at a small premium to the current share price". At yesterday's price the company is worth £44 million. It was floated on the stock market at 105p a share and reached a high of 146p early last year. In 1996, the company earned pre-tax profits of £5.35 million on turnover of £55.3 million.

Plysu edges ahead

PLYSU, the plastic products company, lifted pre-tax profits to £3.9 million, from £3.6 million, in the half year to September 30, despite the strength of sterling. Earnings rose to 5.6p a share, from 4.9p, and the interim dividend is up 10 per cent to 2.2p. David O'Shaughnessy, chairman, said the full benefit of recent investment and acquisitions would be seen in the next financial year. Turnover of £71.1 million, compared with £67.1 million in the first half of the previous year.

Avocet digs up $13.9m

AVOCET MINING, whose shares have fallen sharply this year because of weak gold prices, has realised a gain of $13.9 million (£8.5 million) by liquidating its gold hedge. The proceeds, together with cash on deposit, have repaid $16 million of borrowings from Macquarie Bank. The company was announcing reduced pre-tax losses of £902,000, from £2.98 million, in the half year to September 30. Losses were 2.6p a share (9.4p loss) There is again no dividend.

Aromascan holds steady

LOSSES at Aromascan, the digital aroma technology company, held steady at £1.07 million before tax in the half year to October 31, against £1.09 million previously. Richard Lyman, chairman, said the company expected to be able to announce progress in the alliance with Mitsubishi Electric at the financial year end. Interim losses were 3.97p a share (4.06p loss) and there is again no dividend. Aromascan has £2.3 million of cash in the bank. The shares were unchanged at 30p yesterday.

McBride acquisition

McBRIDE, the household products company, has agreed to buy Grada, a maker of private label and minor brand household cleaning products in The Netherlands, for a maximum profit-related consideration of £11.7 million, including acquired debt. Grada's holding company registered a £240,000 pre-tax loss in 1996 but McBride said the business now trades at a profit after a recovery in the Dutch market. McBride will pay an initial £1.58 million in cash.

Coats Viyella demerging

SHARES of Coats Viyella rose 14½p to 115p after it confirmed it would put forward proposals for the demerger of the contract clothing, fashion and branded clothing and home furnishings divisions from the engineering businesses tomorrow, when it is due to publish an update on current trading. Analysts believe the demerger could produce two stand-alone companies with a combined stock market value of around £1 billion, against yesterday's valuation of around £812 million. Tempus, page 28

UAL forecast lifts shares

UAL CORPORATION, parent of United Airlines, said yesterday that it expected its fourth-quarter income to exceed Wall Street estimates, triggering a sharp rally in its stock. Shares in UAL were up $3.125 at $87.25 (£52.87) in early trading on the New York Stock Exchange. UAL expects its earnings per share to exceed the consensus forecast of $1.58. Gerald Greenwald, chairman, said that fourth-quarter and 1998 booking trends for the airline have not changed.

Cars powered by clean fuel cells on market by 2004

Ford signs 'green' deal

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

CARS, vans and buses powered by environmentally friendly fuel cells could be on the market in 2004, Ford said yesterday as it announced its biggest single investment in green car technology.

Ford — owner of the Lincoln and Jaguar marques — has teamed with Daimler-Benz and Ballard Power Systems of Canada — which has developed fuel cells — to announce a multibillion dollar deal to develop vehicles propelled by the technology.

Fuel cells, which have been used on space missions, turn carbon-based fuels, such as methane hydrogen or methanol, into electricity and heat, with water as the by-product.

During the climate conference last week in Kyoto, Japan, where industrial nations signed up to legally binding reductions in emissions in an attempt to contain the threat of global warming, Ford — along with other vehicle makers and oil companies — tried to scupper the agreement, claiming that the science was unproven and that the deal would be economically damaging.

But yesterday a spokesman for the company said that backing alternative "green" power systems was not at odds with its concerns over the climate deal. "We are quite serious about this. The internal combustion engine has proven difficult to replace. But we believe fuel cells could be the answer. We believe a commercially viable fuel cell vehicle could be on the road by 2004," he said.

The three-way memorandum of understanding, signed in Stuttgart, Germany, involves Ford investing a total of $420 million (£250 million). The investment includes the purchase of shares in Ballard and a stake in DBB Fuel Cell Engines, and the setting up of a new company called Eco.

Study to recommend same ownership quotas as TV

Radio rules 'need retuning'

BY RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

A NEW study now being finalised will conclude that commercial radio groups must be able to become considerably larger if current growth in the sector is to be sustained. Nera (National Economic Research Associates) the consultancy group specialising in communications issues, was commissioned this year by the Commercial Radio Companies Association, the industry trade body, to carry out an investigation on the future of radio.

The Nera study is expected to argue that the same ownership rules applied to commercial television should apply to radio — something that would allow commercial radio groups to almost double in size. The television rules allow ITV companies to own licences up to 15 per cent of total viewing including the BBC, although there are additional constraints on advertising sales.

Radio ownership is judged on a points system, with points awarded on the number and size of radio licences held. No one group can own more than 15 per cent of points in the system. The key difference with television is that in radio the BBC is excluded from the reckoning. NERA will recommend that the limits on radio ownership should, like television, be based on 15 per cent of listening figures, including BBC figures.

It is also expected to recommend that over the next four years, as digital radio develops, there should be a review of the number of radio frequencies held by the BBC. In the past year, commercial radio companies have increased their profit levels and interest and publicity has surrounded the "merger" between the media interest of Richard Branson, of Virgin, and Chris Evans's Ginger Productions.

CURRENCY RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.58	2.41
Austria Sch	21.26	19.88
Belgium Fr	62.87	57.91
Canada $	2.444	2.298
Cyprus CypE	0.894	0.823
Denmark Kr	11.61	10.72
Finland Mrk	9.29	8.53
France Fr	10.16	9.36
Germany Dm	3.06	2.81
Greece Dr	482	443
Hong Kong $	13.49	12.29
Iceland	129	109
Ireland Pt	1.18	1.09
Israel Shk	6.17	5.52
Italy Lira	3011	2774
Japan Yen	228.53	211.00
Malta	0.673	0.614
Netherlds Gld	3.452	3.157
New Zealand $	2.91	2.67
Norway Kr	12.50	11.56
Portugal Esc	308.03	286.00
S Africa Rd	8.89	7.73
Spain Pta	256.29	237.50
Sweden Kr	13.47	12.37
Switzerland Fr	2.49	2.27
Turkey Lira	333980	313492
USA $	1.740	1.597

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

هكذا من الأصل

Always a step away from risk

COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

When Sears hired David James as company doctor to sort out its shoe business it knew what it was getting into. James is famed for a scorched earth policy in which he will spend 99p to release £1 of value. His decision to close down British Shoe Corporation, which at one point sold one shoe in four in the UK, was difficult for Sears' existing management to take, having invested so much time and energy in the business. James could be guaranteed to take the tough decision. And if it was wrong, at least he had a much better chance of getting it right than a Sears insider.

This latest deal has a strange familiarity about it. The purchaser of the Shoe Express chain is Philip Green, who investors will remember with little affection from his days running Amber Day (now known as WEW Group). Two years and 20 days previously, Green was behind another purchase from Sears, that of the Olympus sports goods chain. Sears said it received £53 million for that business and had to make write-offs of £65 million. Even that figure incuded the repayment of inter-company debt and the transfer of a brand new retail computer system that the purchasers, Sports Division, reckon was worth most of the acquisiton price in itself.

By exiting from that sector, Sears managed to miss out on the boom in sports leisure goods that has gripped the country — after spending large amounts of time, money and energy developing the perfect business for that boom. Sports Division is now returning to the stock market, its flotation timed for next spring. The valuation is expected to reach £400 million, of which half could be attributed to the Olympus chain, which Sears was so keen to sell.

That disposal spree, of course, included the decision to sell Freeman Hardy Willis and Saxone to Stephen Hinchliffe and his Facia empire. Those sales, of course, came back to haunt Sears when Facia collapsed a few months later. David James, showing that he is one of the few businessmen who actually learns something from history, is keen not to repeat the errors of the Facia deals. Accordingly this sale to Philip Green takes full account of any potential problems that might arise from assigning leases to Alnery, Green's company. Landlords by nature are risk averse, and with the best will in the world, Alnery is not as good a covenant as Sears. James has made sure the deal takes account of any inducements needed to persuade reluctant landlords of the wisdom of the transfers.

So where now for Sears? It is still trying to sell Freemans after Margaret Beckett spoilt its plans to flog it to Littlewoods. It still needs to sell Shoe City and Cable, though those deals cannot be too far off. This will leave a rump that is largely Selfridges. Of course, given the recent performance of Harvey Nichols, there is a question mark about how valuable a fashion department store actually is. It never rains but it pours.

Japan wraps a new suspect package

Japan's Prime Minister seems at last to have got the message. Ryutaro Hashimoto has let it be known that he has another expansion package up his sleeve. He has, it seems, agreed to set up a £50 billion fund to back bank deposits, and to buy stock issues made by banks whose capital has been washed away by the ebb tide of asset prices. As with all Japan's expansion or rescue packages over the past eight years, it is best not to get carried away by the potential figures. Whatever happened, for instance, to the huge property buy-in that was going to resolve matters once and for all?

The OECD, along with the IMF, whose combined initiatives have done so much to wreck the Asian economies, clearly has little to offer. Within six months, it has had to cut its estimate of Japanese recovery this year from 2.3 to 0.8 per cent. For next year, forecasts of growth from the OECD's economists have already come down from 2.9 to 1.7 per cent. They will have to fall even further if Korea's crisis still festers after Thursday's election.

As a long-term cure, the OECD keeps on prescribing the conventional Western solutions that were, for instance, in part responsible for the asset price bubble that has burst in the face of Japanese consumers. For the short-term, much incoherent throat-clearing and mumbling can be heard emanating form the OECD's Paris headquarters.

Monetary easing would be great but there's not much point when interest rates are near zero. So it has to be fiscal expansion. But was it not conventional international wisdom to nag Japan to be more fiscally responsible, cut spending and the budget deficit to prepare for that all-purpose macroeconomic bugbear: an ageing population? Indeed it was.

Now the OECD must hedge against reality. "Nevertheless" it argues, no doubt with a straight corporate face, "in the short-run, greater consideration should be given to possible ways to ease the fiscal stance without losing sight of medium-term objectives". Reverting to the standard script, it then suggests a tax cut.

Lo and behold, Mr Hashimoto is expected to announce one today, though not big enough or credible enough. "If it's hurting, it's working" John Major used to say. The refrain of pain and deflation will not, however solve the problems of Korea, let alone Japan, where lack of demand has led to a loss of confidence. Resort to the printing press, with its inbuilt threat of future inflation, is more likely to get Tokyo's shoppers out on the streets to spend.

Beauty of bimbos may be skin deep

Once a company's management loses the confidence of institutional investors, it is hard to regain. That means the share rating is likely to lag behind recovery, prolonging the embarrassment of fund managers. The solution is for some outsider to see value in the company and its executives and mount a takeover with their help.

In the argot of venture capital, these are "bimbos", or buy-in management buyouts. Yesterday, two more were launched. Wellman, the engineering group, promised a brighter future before only to disappoint. Now Jon Moulton's Alchemy group is backing management to make it happen second time round. Cash flows to big shareholders such as M&G and Mercury. Healthcall, which supplies duty doctors, was a promising new issue, then had a temporary setback that put the cautious off for years. Venture capital, in cahoots with management, is offering cash to the likes of Jupiter and PDFM.

At this time of year, such deals allow fund managers to contemplate the festive redundancy season with better performance figures. Managers and venturers get geared growth, if they have got it right. Everyone wins.

Or do they? When outsiders help managers to buy out a conglomerate's unwanted subsidiary, group bosses should handle any conflict of interest. This is harder when managers of a quoted company back a cash offer. And are these really the sort of companies that institutional investors should cash in at this stage of the cycle?

Television star

THE news that Roger Luard is in demand — apparently as a potential chief executive of the Carlton/Granada venture, British Digital Broadcasting — comes as some surprise. The Flextech chief executive is supposed to be "well regarded" in the TV world. But his company has made a profit in only one of the last five years and is valued at ten times its turnover. This is ominously like the sort of financial performance many fear BDB might deliver.

MFI cuts jobs despite an increase in profits

By Carl Mortished

MFI is on a drive to halt a rise in fixed costs that is holding back a profits recovery.

Britain's largest furniture retailer has laid off 100 staff at 14 branches as it consolidates its home-delivery service at new distribution centres. More redundancies are expected but John Randall, chief executive, poured cold water on reports of 1,000 lay-offs, pointing to growth in the retail chain: "We could end up with more staff in a year's time than we have now."

Shares in MFI rose 4p to 125p as the company reported an 8 per cent rise in sales in the 28 weeks to November 8 with sales per square foot up 6.8 per cent. MFI's gross margin rose almost two points to 55 per cent and the pre-tax profit for the half year was up 8 per cent to £35.4 million.

However, MFI is having trouble converting the sales and gross margin gain into better net margins and bottom-line profits. Mr Randall said that the current structure of the business meant that growth in sales led to higher costs. "There is an element of inefficiency," he said.

In the half year, staff costs rose almost 10 per cent to £99.2 million as the company added 20 temporary distribution centres to accommodate the company's strategy of converting the core of the business to home delivery.

MFI already has four dedicated distribution centres and an investment of £25 million over the next 18 months will lead to 12 such facilities and the disappearance of stores and warehouses at MFI's 185 retail outlets.

Mr Randall said: "The objective is to expand our net margin. Last year it was 9 per cent. We want to see it well into double figures." MFI's operating profit as a percentage of sales in the first 28 weeks of the financial year slipped below 8 per cent because of a surge in staff costs and a rise in the depreciation charge.

MFI's French operations showed a small increase in sales but the strength of the pound means that revenues on translation fell 11 per cent with a loss for the period of £2.7 million.

Mr Randall said that Hygena was the number two kitchen brand in France. "Our main problem is that we do not have enough stores," he said.

MFI expects to convert all of its old stores to the new Homeworks format during the next 18 months with 123 stores out of the 185 total already refitted. The UK retail operations sublet a further 150,000 sq ft of redundant space, leaving 190,000 sq ft still requiring a tenant.

MFI's borrowings were £47.8 million at the end of the period with capital expenditure expected to be £80 million for the full year. Earnings per share were 4.24p and the interim dividend is up 6 per cent to 1.8p.

Tempus, page 28

TJ Hughes to open new stores

TJ HUGHES, the discount department store operator, yesterday said that its development programme is accelerating and revealed plans for three store openings (Chris Ayres writes).

The company has seen its share price rise 52½p to 121½p this year on the back of its ambitious expansion programme. Sales last year were £60 million.

TJ Hughes said a contract had been signed for a new 40,000 sq ft store in Blackburn, Lancashire, which is expected to open in April 1998. It is also opening a store next year in Shrewsbury, and plans to open another in Burnley in autum 1999. When all projects are completed, TJ Hughes will have 555,000 sq ft of selling space in 21 stores.

Domecq top pay up, profits down

By Jason Nisse

TONY HALES, the chief executive of Allied Domecq, enjoyed a 34 per cent increase in his total pay package to £594,000 last year, when the drinks group suffered a fall in its operating profits.

Mr Hales received a performance-related bonus on £154,000, up from £42,000 the previous year. The total performance-related payout for the board rose from £187,000 to £590,000.

During the year Mr Hales was also awarded 93,448 share options at an exercise price of 427.5p each. Yesterday Allied Domecq shares closed at 535p, up 9.5p, valuing these options at £100,000.

In the year to August 31 the group's operating profits slipped from £729 million to £715 million, largely due to disposals. However, pre-tax profits jumped from £264 million to £602 million, largely due to the absence of losses made on disposals.


Hales: performance rise

In its annual report Allied Domecq says that performance-related payments are made on the basis of targets for profits before tax, cash management and certain key management objectives.

Christie's formally enters talks

CHRISTIE'S International has formally entered negotiations with SBC Warburg Dillon Read in connection with a possible bid, valuing the fine art auctioneer at about £500 million, or 300p a share (Jon Ashworth writes). SBC Warburg confirmed that it had made a preliminary offer on behalf of a consortium of private investors.

Reports that the banking house is looking to buy Christie's outright are understood to be incorrect. An offer would only be made subject to the satisfactory completion of due diligence and with the recommendation of the Christie's board.

Directors of Christie's agreed to proceed with negotiations at a meeting on Sunday night.

Merrill Lynch International was yesterday appointed joint corporate stock broker with SBC Warburg. Christie's shares fell 12p to 288p. Commentary, this page

Receivers appointed at Brent Walker

By Chris Ayres

JOHN LEACH, chief executive of Brent Walker, was last night looking for a new job after the debt-laden leisure and property empire finally crumbled and receivers were apppointed.

Mr Leach will be joined in his search for work by Keith Dibble, Brent Walker's finance director. Both men effectively destroyed their own jobs by selling off the company's assets in an effort to claw back a significant proportion of its £1.5 billion debt. The receivers appointed yesterday were Scott Barnes and Martin Ellis, partners at Grant Thornton.

The company, a star of the Stock Exchange in the 1980s, nearly collapsed because of debts in 1991. George Walker, the former boxer who founded the business, was ousted from the board shortly afterwards. He later became involved in a prolonged legal dispute with the company.

Brent Walker continued to suffer after Mr Walker's departure and became embroiled in a further legal dispute with Grand Metropolitan over the acquisition of its William Hill betting chain.

Since then, Mr Leach has made a series of disposals. Last year Brent Walker sold Pubmaster, the pub chain, to a syndicate of venture capitalists led by NatWest Ventures for £171 million. The company's disposal programme was completed two weeks ago when it sold William Hill to Nomura for £700 million.


Executives John Stallwood, left, and Andrew Bruce

Channel pegs payout

CHANNEL HOLDINGS, the electronic systems and security products company, is holding the interim dividend at 0.55p a share despite lifting pre-tax profit to £1.8 million (£1.4 million) in the half year to October 31. The company said it had made progress despite a slowdown in orders from the Ministry of Defence, which affected the electronic systems division. Channel recently signed a multimillion pound long-term collaboration agreement with Thomson Thorn Missile Electronics. Interim earnings were 1.3p a share (1p).

Elan enters agreed bid for Sano of America

By Martin Barrow

ELAN CORPORATION, the drug delivery and biopharmaceutical company based in the Republic of Ireland, has launched an agreed bid for America's Sano Corporation, valuing the company at $375 million, it was announced yesterday.

Sano develops proprietary and generic products through the use of the company's own delivery systems.

The company, based in Florida, received Food and Drug Administration approval for one generic transdermal product earlier this year and has a portfolio and generic products at various stages of development.

Sano's shares trade on America's Nasdaq market, where its capitalisation has risen above $248 million at the end of September from $142.6 million at the end of 1996. The company incurred losses of $1 million in 1996 and lost $12.7 million in the first nine months of the current year.

Elan is offering $35.50 in shares for each Sano share. Elan said the transaction would have a neutral impact on earnings in 1998.

In the first nine months of the current year, Elan, whose shares are listed in London, Dublin and New York, has earned net income of $123.4 million on revenues of $279.8 million. In the last full year net income was $87.2 million. The company is capitalised at around $5.37 billion.

Allied Colloids attacked over costs

By Paul Durman

HERCULES, the American chemicals company bidding £1.1 billion for Allied Colloids, has criticised its target for the time it has taken the Bradford company to get to grips with its costs.

Allied Colloids' defence is based on persuading shareholders that they have yet to see the full benefit of cost-cutting and production efficiency improvements adopted since David Farrar took over as chief executive in July 1995.

However, Hercules yesterday pointed out that it is now more than three-and-a-half years since Mr Farrar was named as chief executive designate, yet profit margins have declined over the period. Vincent Corbo, president and chief operating officer of Hercules, said: "The speciality chemicals industry has been at that [improving costs and processes] for some time. But it does not appear to be a strong priority for Allied Colloids."

Mr Farrar has been on the board of Colloids since 1990 and previously ran the US business which, Mr Corbo said, had produced very poor returns on capital.

Hercules also criticised the £244 million Colloids spent on the US acquisition of CPS last year. It said the price included £222 million of good will, which will have to be written off against profits under new accounting rules. It said the deal would dilute earnings and expressed concern about the age of the CPS facilities.

Hercules said Colloids had consistently disappointed with its earnings. Colloids responded that the group had an outstanding record of organic growth and management was already achieving operating margin improvements.

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STOCK MARKET



MICHAEL CLARK

Stock Market Writer of the Year

Shares pick up pace on hopes of seasonal rally

INVESTORS have entered into the spirit of Christmas, ignoring the turbulent events in the Far East.

Brokers say share prices could still enjoy the traditional pre-Christmas rally, with some of them setting a target price of between 5,200 and 5,300. The equity market appeared to grow in confidence as the day wore on, with prices being squeezed higher in thin conditions as the cash market narrowed the gap on a strong future.

The FTSE 100 index closed at its best of the day with a jump of 76.6 at 5,121.8 on total turnover of fewer than 600 million shares.

There was the usual flurry of speculative buying among the banks. **Northern Rock** rose 14p to 564p with the speculators convinced it will soon be on the receiving end of a bid from **Lloyds TSB**, up 28p at 765p. **Barclays Bank** jumped 79p to £17.15 and **NatWest Bank** put on 21½p at 999p on persistent talk the pair may end up merging.

Sedgwick Group saw its shares touch 171p, convinced that it would be on the receiving end of a £1 billion bid from Aon Corporation, the US insurance broker. But Sedgwick went out of its way to denounce weekend reports by saying there had been no talks with Aon. Sedgwick closed 2p better at 150p.

Christie's International came off the boil, falling 12p to 288p after City speculators expressed disappointment at the revised terms from SBC Warburg Dillon Read of 300p a share. The new terms value the fine art auctioneer at £1 billion and the board must decide whether it is going to accept them.

Grand Metropolitan firmed 3p to 585p and **Guinness** 2p to 586p as the US Federal Trade Commission removed the final barrier to the merger. But to comply with the FTC, the enlarged company, soon to be renamed Diageo, must dispose of the world rights to Dewars scotch and Bombay dry gin.

Blue Circle Industries enjoyed a new lease of life as the price added 9p at 336p, with the market convinced that the proposed merger of Guinness and GrandMet could be positive for the company, with another constituent required to make up the numbers. It means that BCI may still be able to hold on to its position as a constituent of the top 100 companies.



The bid for Christie's International, down 12p, disappointed

Newcomer **Energis** continued to lose ground, falling 5p to 270p. Not only has it failed to clinch a place as a constituent of the FTSE 250 index, but Lehman Brothers, the US securities house, claims the shares are overvalued.

Half-year figures from **MFI Furniture** came in at the top end of expectations and the shares responded with a rise of 3½p at 125p. John Randall, chief executive, has confirmed a major overhaul of the business is under way.

British Airways took off with a jump of 20p to 572p after SBC Warburg Dillon Read moved its recommendation from "add" to "buy". Word is that agreement may be close with the European Commission to allow the proposed link-up with American Airlines to proceed.

Lack of news on the Abbott Laboratories link-up left **Shield Diagnostics** 7½p lower at 740p. But brokers say the deal should be confirmed this week and may be quickly followed by a full bid for the company. Shield has developed a relatively simple process, Advanced Factor 12, for detecting coronary problems in the early stages through a series of blood tests.

Dealings in Cordiant and Saatchi & Saatchi got under way after the split into two separate companies. Both started life at 112p, with **Cordiant** touching 112½p before finishing 3p easier at 109p, while **Saatchi & Saatchi** finished 2p cheaper at 110p.

It was the first day of dealings for **Property Asset Holdings** after a placing by Charles Stanley, the broker, at 6p. The shares started life at 7½p before settling at 7p, a premium of 1p.

The abandonment of bid talks left **Widney** nursing a fall of 5½p at 38½p. The mechanical and electronic engineering group is now looking at various ways of enhancing shareholder value.

Wellman ended ¾p firmer at 40½p on news of the agreed terms from Newmall, the newly formed investment consortium, which is offering 50p a share. The terms value the engineer at £73 million.

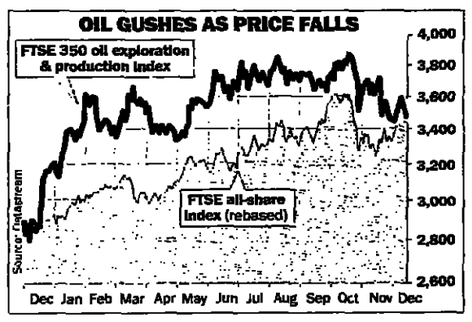
☐ **GILT-EDGED**: Investors appear to be taking a cautious view of events ahead of the crucial retail sales data expected on Thurday. Analysts say another subdued performance by consumers may be enough to prevent the sixth rate rise since May.

Sentiment was also bolstered by the latest OECD survey showing a further slow-down in economic growth to 2.2 per cent next year.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt was unchanged at £121[5/8] in moderate turnover.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 was £1's ahead at £122[3/32], while Treasury 7 per cent 2002 firmed three ticks to £101[13/16].

☐ **NEW YORK**: Wall Street's most closely watched indices moved in different directions in morning trade as investors fled Nasdaq technology shares to the blue chips of the Dow Jones industrial average. By midday the Dow was 48.98 points ahead at 7,887.28.



Just days after Merrill Lynch, the broker, cut its oil forecast for next year by $1 to $18, so Williams de Broë, its rival, has gone one better and reduced its forecast by $3 to $17 a barrel and the sector rating to "underperform" from "outperform".

Peter Hitchens, at WdeB, says that everything looks bleak for the oil companies. Opec's increased quotas, the possibility of more Iraqi oil flooding the market, the problems in the Far East and warmer weather have undermined prospects.

"Everything looks bleak for the oil price. The outlook for the second quarter looks even worse", he said.

Supply is expected to outstrip demand by around two million barrels a day. This could lead to the price dropping to $16 a barrel during that quarter.

He is a seller of the sector, but retained weightings should include Shell, up 17p at 447p after a meeting with analysts on Friday.

Others include Enterprise Oil, 2p better at 589p, Hardy Oil & Gas, unchanged at 285p, and Premier, down ¾p at 55½p.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones ..... 7887.28 (+48.98)
S&P Composite ..... 957.66 (+1.27)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average ..... 15909.39 (+5.09)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng ..... 10435.15 (-179.51)

Amsterdam:
AEX Index ..... 888.78 (+1.04)

Sydney:
AO ..... 2500.9 (+6.9)

Frankfurt:
DAX ..... 4060.04 (-22.56)

Singapore:
Straits ..... 1600.64 (-32.34)

Brussels:
General ..... 13988.87 (+48.62)

Paris:
CAC-40 ..... 2838.27 (+8.01)

Zurich:
SKA Gen ..... 1224.80 (-8.01)

London:

FT 30	n/a
FTSE 100	5121.8 (+76.6)
FTSE 250	4703.0 (+5.1)
FTSE 350	2462.0 (+30.3)
FTSE Eurotrack 100	2627.90 (-7.82)
FTSE All-Share	n/a
FTSE Non Financials	...
FTSE Fixed Interest	...
FTSE Govt Secs	...
Bargains	49907
SEAQ Volume	599.1m
US$	1.6392 (-0.0198)
German Mark	2.8904 (-0.0402)
Exchange Index	102.4 (-1.3)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.4838
£:SDR	1.2205
RPI	159.6 Nov (3.7%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	158.0 Nov (2.8%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Autologic	264½	...	
BG 'B'	30½	...	
Boustead	20½	...	
Bovis Homes	193	...	
Capital Opps Trust	113½	...	
Cortland Comm	57½	...	
Cresco International	153½	...	
Fimg Geared Units	177	...	
Foresight Tech Wts	25	...	
Foresight Technology	85	...	
General Inds	35½	+	½
Gooch & Housego	126½	-	1
Manchester & Lon	270	...	
Marchpole	122½	-	2
Market Link Publ	55	...	
Metalsrussia	74½	...	
Northern Rcrtmnt	137½	-	2½
Nottingham Forest	54	...	
Property Asset	7	...	
Range Cooker	6½	...	
Rapid Technology	92½	-	1
Razorback Vehicles	102½	...	
SCS Upholstery	111½	...	
Saatchi & Saatchi	110	...	
Savoy Asset Mngmt	113½	...	
Seascope Shipping	250	...	
Second Scot Zr Dv Pf	100	...	
Second Scottish Natl	100½	+	½
Symer	232½	...	
Tetra	175½	...	
Vanguard Med Wts	42	...	

RIGHTS ISSUES

FI Group n/p (640)	195	...
Green Prop n/p (350)	40	...
Taylor Nel n/p (60)	19½	+ 4

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Abacus Recrut	205p (+37½p)
Adscene	151½p (+19p)
DCS Group	310½p (+20p)
Hays	804p (+37p)
Barclays	1715 (+79p)
Blacks Leisure	501½p (+23p)

FALLS:

Hadleigh	181p (-22½p)
Real Time	313½p (-14p)
Christies Int	288p (-12p)
Cantab Pharms	680p (-22½p)

Closing Prices Page 31

TEMPUS

Threadbare Coats

THE expected demerger of Coats Viyella could end up looking horribly like the Thorn EMI split. What was billed as an opportunity to disclose hidden value could simply be a means of shuffling off a dud business in a rotten market. Revealed in its true threadbare glory, the sum of the parts may be no more than the whole.

Coats Viyella will reveal its true intentions later this week but yesterday the company confirmed plans for a demerger of contract clothing and the fashion brands. That will leave the most promising businesses, thread manufacturing and precision engineering, with the group and in theory, relieved of the depressing effect of the apparel businesses, they should prosper. While no one disputes that the engineering and thread businesses ought to sell at a solid premium to their asset value, no one has a clue how to price the garment businesses which have an appalling profits record. Coats Viyella was slow to shift production offshore to locations in Asia: with the depreciation of Far Eastern currencies, competition from cheap imports is likely to get worse as Asian producers scramble for business. Some £450 million of turnover, mainly to Marks & Spencer, ought to have value but it could be as little as 40p in the pound. That leaves the breakup value at 130p, a fragile premium to the current price.

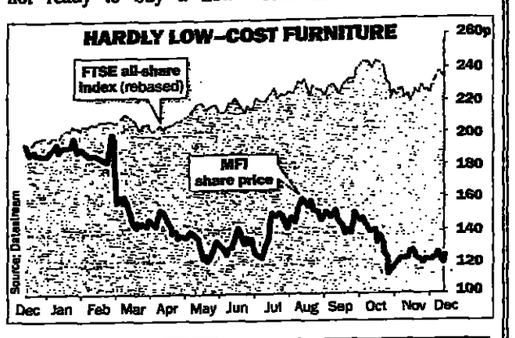
The temptation is for the company to ditch a business that has consistently failed to deliver but that will ill serve investors. Rivals such as Dewhirst are earning solid 7 per cent margins from the rag trade, even in this market and Coats ought to be capable of a decent return. If the demerger offers no strategy to achieve that, it offers no future.

MFI

YOU cannot fault MFI for trying to cut costs. The company's sterling efforts to raise margins by increasing sales have been all but ruined by the steady rise in the cost-base. While the half-year figures showed a solid 8 per cent rise in income, staffing costs rose over the same period by 10 per cent and the building programme is taking its toll. MFI's decision to convert all its stores into the new Homeworks concept is keeping the top line moving but the refits are costing the company with the depreciation charge rising by 28 per cent.

According to MFI, the high staff costs relate to transitional warehousing, set up to operate the home delivery service. Plans for shiny new distribution centres will reduce staff numbers but this leaves the impression of a disorganised expansion, planned on the hoof.

The key question is whether the new MFI stores will deliver the higher margins. Shedding slow moving products sounds good but if MFI narrows its range too far it could end up turning away casual customers who are not ready to buy a new kitchen or redesign a bedroom. Results over the next 12 months will suffer from further expenditure on distribution and store refits but there is a nagging worry that if MFI spent a fraction of the restructuring money on revamping its tired product range, it would achieve the desired sales gain at less cost. There are better retailers.



Gold hedging

AVOCET MINING'S decision to liquidate its hedging position poses an interesting puzzle. Avocet had about 180,000 ounces locked in at average prices of $385 an ounce and, given the fall in the price, it found itself with a theoretical gain of almost $14 million which it has realised to reduce its borrowings. The huge liquidity in the gold market — banks still hold big stocks — means that it is very cheap to borrow, making it possible to sell forward for several years. Rates for gold loans are only 1 per cent to 2 per cent and the heavy forward hedging by goldminers has contributed to the steady fall in the metal's price.

Why then are mining companies, like Ashanti and producers in Southern Africa, still digging metal out of the ground at huge expense? Many African producers cannot mine gold profitably at $280 per ounce, but they have sensibly taken out forward contracts at much higher prices that protect them from loss. Logically, such companies should shut down the mines and buy gold at the spot price of $280 and realise an immediate gain against their hedged positions of $350 or more.

By continuing to produce gold from the ground, the mining companies are digging their own graves. Stocks are huge and investors should stay away. It is interesting to note that Avocet is now selling forward at $290. A bearish signal if there ever was one.

ML Labs

ML LABORATORIES keeps telling the world it is making solid progress but its shares continue to fall, now lower than at any time for six years.

From the company's perspective, its problems are minor: a delay in recruiting patients for a phase III trial of an Aids drug, and a temporary problem obtaining the vaccine needed for tests of its prostate cancer drug. Yes, profits have fallen sharply, but that's irrelevant because they are dependent on volatile milestone payments rather than genuine sales or royalties.

This is disingenuous. A few months ago, Panmure Gordon, ML's broker, which had been looking for £100 million of profits by the turn of the decade, suddenly (but discretely) reduced its 1997 forecast to zero. The broker had caught wind of the delays, yet ML gave no warning to its shareholders.

This points to an anomaly. Even small delays can have a huge impact on the discounted cashflow models used by the City to value ML. Yet managements do not feel the need to disclose such a delay as they would a conventional trading problem.

Such consideration suggests that ML's shares may not be as cheap as they look.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Dec	1120-1114	Mar	1233-1231
Mar	1148-1147	May	1249-1245
May	1165-1164	Jul	1262-1260
Jul	1183-1181	Sep	1280-1272
Sep	1199-1198		
Dec	1214-1212		Volume: 7066

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Jan	1820-1815	Sep	1790 SLR
Mar	1815-1810	Nov	unq
May	1798 SLR	Jan	
Jul	1795 SLR		Volume: 5087

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Oct	unq
Spot: n/a		Dec	
Mar	306.0-06.1	Mar	310.5-01.0
May	unq	May	313.5-07.0
Aug			Volume: 597

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on December 12

	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB	60.08	92.84	92.21
+/-	-0.20	-5.26	-1.70
England	60.08	93.40	91.79
+/-	-0.38	-5.25	-1.38
No.	430.0	-22.0	
Scotland	unq	89.39	96.83
+/-		-6.33	+6.37
No.		-14.0	-40.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	16.90	-0.25
Brent 15 day (Jan)	17.40	-0.25
Brent 15 day (Feb)	17.50	-0.25
W Texas Intermediate (Jan)	18.25	-0.10
W Texas Intermediate (Feb)	18.40	-0.20

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	177 (n/c)	182 (n/c)
Gasoil EEC	162 (+1)	164 (+1)
3.5 Fuel Oil	81 (-2)	83 (-2)
Naphtha	174 (+1)	176 (-1)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Jan	160.25-60.50	Apr	161.75-62.00
Feb	161.25-61.50	May	161.75-62.00
Mar	161.50-61.75		Vol: 8019

BRENT (6.00pm)

Jan	17.36-17.38	Apr	17.65-17.68
Feb	17.50-17.51	May	17.69-17.73
Mar	17.58-17.60		Vol: 41689

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
Jan	83.00	Jan	76.00
Mar	85.00	Mar	78.80
May	87.00	May	79.75
Jul	89.00	Sep	74.25
Sep	92.25	Nov	81.25
	Volume: 456		Volume: 105

LIFFE POTATO (£/t): Mar unq 91.0; Apr 113.5; May 123.5; Volume 22

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)
Jan 45.75-46.25

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Dec 97	1295	1270	1270
Jan 98	1340	1295	1295
Feb 98	unq	—	1210
Apr 98	1300	1280	1280
Vol. 101 lots		Open Interest: 1681	
		Index 1289 +2	

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE — Rudolf Wolff

	Cash:	3mth:	Vol:
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	1758.0-1759.0	1792.0-1793.0	16397.00
Lead ($/tonne)	512.00-512.50	529.00-530.00	2205.75
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1086.0-1094.5	1123.0-1124.0	20329
Tin ($/tonne)	5385.0-5390.0	5345.0-5350.0	2548.5
Aluminium HI Gde ($/tonne)	1528.5-1527.0	1593.5-1594.0	24239.25
Nickel ($/tonne)	9870.0-9875.0	9965.0-9970.0	13759.2

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Calls Series	Jan	Apr	Jul	Puts Jan	Apr	Jul
ASDA	160	18½	23	27	2	5	7
1727½	180	7	12	15½	10	15½	15½
Abbey Nat	1000	79½	113	140½	24	59	76
1047½	1050	57	86½	116	55½	83	99½
BAB Lec	750	59	78	94	11	24½	33
733½	800	28	50½	67	31	48½	59
Bass Trom	500	85	95	101½	3	9½	17
535½	550	16	33	49½	25	39	46½
BAT	460	47½	64½	75	6½	13½	22
459½	500	21½	41	52½	17½	30½	38
BAT Ind	500	58½	74	83½	2	10½	17½
547½	550	26	47	57½	35½	49	55½
Barclays	1600	144½	197½	243½	35	78½	108½
1615½	1700	63½	145½	200½	88	125½	155½
Bass	300	34	69	78½	3	10	16
302½	350	14	46½	56	56½	78	87
Boots	850	53	94½	102	17½	34½	46½
870½	900	20½	56½	74	41	58½	66½
BP Amoco	550	38	62	75	15½	30½	34½
570½	600	15	39	51½	59½	51	59
BP	300	42	72	91½	2½	4½	5½
291½	250	20	51	66	30	70½	84
Br Steel	130	11	17½	21	3½	6½	11
131½	140	5½	12½	16	7½	15	16
C&W	509	46½	64	77	10	23	33
536½	553	18½	38½	51½	30½	46½	57
Cad	850	73	105	116	28	61½	63½
823½	900	48½	79½	91	50½	88½	98
Glaxo	1450	152	192½	182½	47½	89	105½
1458½	1500	85	96½	124½	70½	117½	124½
HSBC	1900	143	215½	263½	64	131½	155
1957½	1600	89½	166½	217½	111½	182½	207½
Hanson	700	74	72	87	57	57½	58
715½	750	21½	43½	61	33	46	57½
ICI	950	42½	67	93½	37½	63½	78½
1001½	1000	12½	46	72	65	93	107
Land Sec	950	71	93	103	13½	27½	37½
999½	1000	42½	63½	79½	33½	48½	59
M&S	600	29½	49½	62	17½	28	35
603½	650	10½	28	40	47	54½	65
Nat Pwr	550	51	75	92½	8½	21½	28½
580½	600	20	47½	66½	27	44	52
Nat West	950	84	107½	132	28	63½	65½
1001	1000	57	85½	107½	50	89½	90
Reuters	600	80	78½	91	5½	20½	26
565½	650	30	50	64	84	47½	55
RyScots	600	34	55	69½	23	46½	53
609½	650	13	35½	45	92	74½	81½
Safeway	330	26	37½	43	8	18½	18½
345½	360	11	24½	29½	22	33	33½
Sainsbury	600	28	45	56	14	32½	37½
539½	550	7	21½	31	45	50½	59
Shell	433	27	—	—	10½	—	—
447½	450	18½	—	—	17½	—	—
Smith Nph	625	30	57	—	37½	46½	—
625½	650	19½	45	62½	41	59½	67
Std Chtd	650	68½	87	111	20½	45	51½
636½	700	39	57½	82	42	62½	76½
Thames W	900	47½	74	93	17½	32½	46
934	950	23	49	67	33	49	59
Tomkins	500	39	58	72	3	12	19
516½	550	8	29	41½	36	49½	57
Unilever	1000	84	116	132	28	63½	72½
1004½	1050	46	77½	97½	48½	82½	92½
Utd Biscs	700	14	28	38½	84	76½	84½
711½	750	3½	13	21	75	87½	94½
Utd Utilities	600	52	74	86	5	20½	28½
611½	650	16	39½	52½	41½	63½	72½
Vodafone	180	17½	19½	24½	11½	19	20½
178½	200	6	12½	17½	23½	32	33
Whitbread	650	87½	102	117½	34½	49½	56½
690	700	59	73	86½	30	48½	52½
Zeneca	700	59	78	96½	30	48½	52½
723	750	35	53½	71½	63½	72	85
Rio Tinto	700	55½	73	85½	24	44½	55
729½	750	34	48½	61½	48½	71	81½
Redland	350	15½	16½	16	½	6½	12
343½	360	½	6½	9	16½	16½	19½
R-Rovce	220	23	30½	35½	7½	12	13
236½	240	12½	15½	25½	16½	20½	22½
Tesco	480	43	57	66½	9	19	23
498½	500	22	36	45½	25½	37	44½
Utd Biscs	200	18	21½	25	3	10½	13
211½	220	7½	11	15½	14½	21	23½

	Calls Series	Dec	Mar	Jun	Puts Dec	Mar	Jun
BG PLC	280	7	25½	33	2	15	19
287½	300	—	15½	23	13½	26½	31½
BSkyB	470	16	42	57	1	20½	24
454½	460	½	34	38½	25½	47½	55
Br Bio	100	4	21	27	6	13½	17
101½	110	½	17	23	9	18½	21½
Cantab	90	2½	10½	14½	7½	11½	13½
91½	100	—	6½	9	6½	13½	16½
Chrtrs	650	19	56½	73	1½	16½	24½
617½	650	—	33	45	32½	56	66½
EMI	460	8	40½	58	3½	20½	28
465½	492	½	26½	—	27	49	—
Glaxo	650	26	60½	80½	1	13	21
674½	900	1	32½	54½	26	57½	66
GUS	700	50	77	96	—	30½	36
774½	750	9	39½	62	9	31½	41
Lasmo	750	15½	62½	84	3½	31½	41½
758½	800	1½	40	61	41½	74	84
Lonrho	80	8	14	17	—	2½	6½
88½	90	1	9	12½	2½	9½	12
Norwich	367	24	58	65	—	12	16½
380½	350	2	33½	45½	11	33½	37½
Orange	340	10½	23½	30	1	11½	15
329½	350	1	15½	23	11	24½	28½
Rolfrs	900	45	97½	126	—	40½	52½
940½	950	11	73½	104	23½	73	84½
Stat Pwr	600	32½	50½	69	½	15	26
630½	550	1	27	44½	21½	45½	53
Tarmac	110	1½	3½	10½	1½	6½	9
110½	120	—	4	6½	10	12½	13
Tomkins	390	12½	33	43	2½	14	18
382½	300	1	14	21	8	19½	24
Unilever	500	7½	34	44	3½	22	28
504½	536	½	23	32	31½	55½	66

December 15 Total: 25825 Calls: 11836 Puts: 13989

FTSE INDEX (*5116½)

Strike	Calls Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Puts Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
4950	195	235	357½	406	—	14½	81½	109½
5000	153	247	321	374	4½	19½	85½	114½
5050	112½	212	289	342	—	31½	111½	140
5100	77½	181	258	311	4½	48½	139½	168½
5150	48½	150½	226	280	—	72½	169½	200½
5200	29½	123	194½	249½	35½	102	178	223
5250	14½	99½	169½	224	—	143½	207	252
5300	6	78½	146½	201½	306½	193	238½	282

December 15 Total: 1778 Calls: 1112 Puts: 666

*Underlying security price

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Dec 97	121-00	121-06	121-00	121-01	1865
Previous open interest 193923	Mar 98	121-20	121-25	121-12	121-20	29824
German Gov' Bond (Bund)	Mar 98	104.65	104.81	104.54	104.62	100283
Previous open interest 2083356	Jun 98	103.99	104.03	103.99	104.02	162
German Govt Bond (Bobl)	Mar 98	104.07	104.15	104.00	104.05	4570
Previous open interest 8404	Jun 98				103.47	0
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	Mar 98	115.46	115.73	115.42	115.52	26453
Previous open interest 117128	Jun 98				114.94	0
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Mar 98	129.95	130.05	129.90	129.74	1274
	Jun 98				129.28	0
Three Mth Sterling	Dec 97	92.31	92.31	92.29	92.29	11294
	Mar 98	92.36	92.38	92.34	92.36	14083
Previous open interest 805413	Jun 98	92.47	92.50	92.45	92.47	11691
Three Mth Euromark	Dec 97	96.24	96.25	96.24	96.24	13661
Previous open interest 1646369	Mar 98	96.20	96.21	96.18	96.19	59875
Three Mth Eurolira	Dec 97	93.92	93.92	93.90	93.88	4981
Previous open interest 606857	Mar 98	94.78	94.78	94.66	94.68	30698
Three Mth Euroswiss	Dec 97	98.40	98.41	98.40	98.41	4048
Previous open interest 164050	Mar 98	98.29	98.30	98.19	98.22	13490
Three Mth ECU	Dec 97	95.49	95.51	95.46	95.51	1283
Previous open interest 39550	Mar 98	95.47	95.51	95.47	95.50	2434
FTSE 100	Dec 97	5080.0	5135.0	5055.0	5132.0	16579
Previous open interest 66486	Mar 98	5111.0	5164.0	5110.0	5183.5	11555

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 7%. Finance Hse 7%
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 7% Low 7 Week fixed: 7%
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 7⅛ . 3 mth 7⅛ . Sell: 2 mth 6⅞ . 3 mth: 6⅞ .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	
Sterling Money Rates:	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛
Interbank:	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛

Overnight: open 7⅛, close 7 .

Local Authority Deps:	7⅛	n/a	7⅛	7⅛	7⅛
Sterling CDs:	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛
Dollar CDs:	5.84	n/a	5.79	5.80	5.96
Building Society CDs:	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5⅛-5¼	5⅛-5¼	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5¼-4¾
Deutschemark:	3⅛-3¼	3⅛-3⅜	3⅛-3⅜	3⅛-3⅜	4-3
French Franc:	3⅛-3⅜	3⅛-3⅜	3⅛-3⅜	3⅛-3⅜	3⅛-2⅝
Swiss Franc:	⅛-¼	1⅛-1¼	1⅛-1¼	1⅛-1¼	1¼-¼
Yen:	⅛-¼	⅛-¼	⅛-¼	⅛-¼	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $282.90-283.20 Close $285.80-286.30 High: $286.00-286.50
Low: $282.30-282.80 AM: $283.20 PM: $283.60

Krugerrand: $290.00-297.00 (£179.00-181.00)

Platinum: $354.00 (£217.05) Silver: $5.94 (£3.635) Palladium: $194.00 (£118.95)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mid Rates for Dec 15

	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.2557-3.2906	3.2557-3.2903	3½-1½pr
Brussels	59.720-60.260	60.076-60.176	25-20pr
Copenhagen	11.007-11.129	11.007-11.018	¼-¼pr
Dublin	1.1212-1.1288	1.1227-1.1249	18-11pr
Frankfurt	2.8892-2.9302	2.8893-2.8921	1½-2½pr
Lisbon	395.40-298.42	295.40-295.74	2-1pr
Madrid	244.58-246.81	244.58-244.89	64-53

هكذا من الأصل

Venture capitalists stake their money on a numbers game

A bingo hall would seem an unlikely place to find a venture capitalist. Despite efforts to put forward a more modern image and draw younger crowds — measures that have led to the investment of hundreds of millions of pounds — bingo is hardly a sexy investment, not on a par with a biotechnology start-up or an Internet trailblazer.

The venture capitalists think otherwise. Yesterday, PPM Ventures, the Prudential's venture capital arm, backed a £279 million management buy-in at Gala, the bingo arm of Bass. Last month, Hambro European Ventures bought 19 bingo clubs from Vardon for £30.5 million and venture capitalists have been tipped as possible bidders for the clubs owned by First Leisure, which have attracted disposal rumours.

Their interest comes despite falling profits in the industry, dominated by Gala and Mecca, which is owned by Rank. Bingo was hit hard by the introduction of the National Lottery and, in particular, lottery scratchcards. Operating profits at Gala fell from £31 million in the 1995-96 financial year. In the 1996-97 period, this had fallen to £24 million.

Jimmy Thomas, chairman of the Bingo Association of Great Britain, claims the venture capitalists smell an imminent change in the way bingo halls are taxed.

He says the industry has been hammered by a 10 per cent betting levy, taken from the stake only, while other forms of gambling have seen taxation fall below this level. Despite their falling income, bingo companies have been obliged by competition not to drop their prize money, he says. Pressures of this sort prompted Bass to write down the value of its Gala clubs by £177 million earlier this month.

The new Labour Government, Mr Thomas feels, may be more likely to lower the bingo tax. In the meantime, he says: "There are now about 250 clubs at risk of closing if there isn't some change in taxation." These include small town-centre halls that are often located in areas where unemployment is already high. About 100 clubs have closed since the National Lottery started, involving the loss of about 3,200 jobs, says Mr Thomas.

> 'People are still not going to pop in to bingo on their way to the disco'

But what do the venture capitalists themselves have to say? Alistair Mackintosh of PPM Ventures, which is not revealing the equity structure of the management buy-in at Gala, says the chance of a tax change was never a motivation. Nor is the Gala deal a covert property play, aimed at getting hold of the more attractive sites in the Gala portfolio.

He says the deal makes sense because the effect of the National Lottery on takings has levelled off: "The major drivers of the business are predominantly positive. Admissions are starting to increase."

Total stakes in the year to March 1997 were almost £1 billion, up 7 per cent.

Another growth factor is deregulation. In April 1997, the Government approved legislation to remove all restrictions on advertising, as well as permitting the use of debit cards for payment. PPM Ventures and the Gala managers believe this freedom will enable them to compete on more equal terms with the National Lottery.

Peter Taylor, a director of Hambro European Ventures (HEV), claims the National Lottery was not the only thing keeping down profits at bingo clubs: "A lot of the problem was bad management." He claims that some operators allowed themselves to get bogged down in price wars to the detriment of their businesses.

The Vardon clubs bought by HEV tend to be located in secondary towns where there is no competition from another bingo chain.

One leisure analyst says Rank stands out from the other big operators as the most committed investor in bingo: "It has kept on plugging in money and effort.

"They have roughly the same number of sites as Bass had but I think they have been more selective with their acquisition of sites."

He said Bass's progress in rolling out the bigger, purpose-built clubs, often on the edge of towns, was hampered by weaker returns from older sites, such as converted cinemas.

It is widely held that the newer, larger, "flat floor" sites are the way forward. They can offer restaurants, bars and car parking — the latter being vital for older, more vulnerable clientele at night.

They appear to have had some success in driving down the average age of the bingo punter, but there is scepticism about how far this could go. One analyst concludes: "People are still not going to pop in to bingo on their way to the disco."

ADAM JONES

American booksellers offer Britain chapter and verse on the future

Independents face threat from US methods and stores, says Ian Brodie



Browsing is encouraged in the new-style bookshops where spacious children's sections are proving a draw for families

Every Saturday, and often during the week, my local bookshop in the Washington suburbs is packed. It is a Borders superstore that is vast yet also warm and inviting.

Browsing is positively encouraged. Armchairs and sofas are scattered about. There are no hassles if you loiter at the maze of magazine racks or sneak a look at the latest American and foreign newspapers and then quietly put them back on the shelf.

Every day sees a special event, from rap sessions with authors to readings for local poets and performances by instrumental groups. You can dawdle over a *cappuccino* while leafing through books that have caught your fancy from the 150,000 titles on offer.

It is known as a place for chance encounters and some lone readers discreetly eye the possibilities, finding the atmosphere far less pressured than a singles bar. It is also a draw for families with a spacious children's section displaying an irresistible array of books and toys just waiting to be picked up. The music department has a hundred sets of headphones for sampling CDs from pop to an extensive range of jazz, classics and new age.

The Borders experience is known in the book trade as "destination shopping". The aim is to make going to Borders an outing, rather than just nipping into a shop to buy a book.

Amazingly, there are now 200 Borders in America plus a further 469 similar superstores owned by Barnes and Noble. Both firms compete aggressively and continue to expand rapidly. The consequences for bookselling in the US are profound and are starting to affect Britain, where the trade is in a volatile phase. The first British Borders will open next June in Leeds. If that goes well, London will probably be next. Last September, Borders bought Books Etc, the British independent chain, just as it was about to go public.

Speculation has grown that Barnes and Noble is surveying the British market and even scouting locations. A spokesman for the company said there were no specific plans to extend internationally, but she admitted: "I'm sure we have people exploring possibilities and feasibilities overseas."

Barnes and Noble could more than match Borders' stake in Britain by making a bid for Waterstone's. Its parent, WH Smith, wants to spin off the chain in the spring. Meanwhile, Waterstone's has opened a Borders-style store in Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow, and it is doing better than expected.

Many American book-lovers are pleased by the enticing new bookshops carrying thousands of volumes, but there is a gloomy side to the spread of these "category killers". The share of volumes sold by independent bookshops has dropped in the past four years from one in four to one in five. At least several hundred independents have been forced to close, according to Avin Mark Domnitz, director of the American Booksellers Association, who said: "It's my opinion that a significant portion of those losses were because of competition brought on by chains."

His association alleges that American publishers improperly sell books to chains on advantageous terms. One result is unbridled discounting of retail prices. Mr Domnitz predicted a similar upheaval in Britain with the loss of the Net Book Agreement.

Some independents are hitting back successfully. Elaine Petrocelli was chosen as *Publishers Weekly's* bookseller of the year for the panache of the shop Book Passage that she runs with her husband Bill in the well-to-do environs north of San Francisco. They have a welcoming ambience that equals Borders.

In Atlanta, Barbara Babbit Kaufman has taken on the giants by offering deep discounts in her thriving local chain of 11 shops. In deliberate contrast to "destination shopping", she emphasises the convenience of her branches in suburban neighbourhoods, with easy parking and quick access.

Bookselling has also entered the uncertain realm of the Internet. Amazon.com calls itself "Earth's biggest bookstore" with an online catalogue of 2.5 million titles, equivalent to 40 New York phone books. Jeff Bezos founded the firm in his garage two-and-a-half years ago. This year his sales for the third quarter were $38 million, a 36 per cent increase over the previous quarter, but his net loss was $8.5 million.

Mr Bezos said he was still losing money because of heavy investment for the future in infrastructure, marketing and distribution. He predicted that 10 to 15 per cent of books worldwide will eventually be sold on the Web. Amazon.com went public last May, floating for $18 million. It is now worth $50 million. Barnes and Noble has launched a Web site that is expected to break even in 1999. Borders will venture into cyberspace next year.

Borders and Barnes and Noble both had similar beginnings. Brothers Tom and Louis Borders started in Michigan 25 years ago and 14 years later opened a second branch. After installing chairs, they found customers enjoyed loafing and sales went up. The brothers revolutionised inventory management with computers, enabling them to acquire thousands of titles. They grew to five stores and then sold out to K-Mart, a discount retailing conglomerate that launched Borders nationally and let it go public two years ago under its chief executive officer, Bob DiRomualdo.

Leonard Riggio began his bookselling career while attending New York University in the early 1960s. As an assistant in the university bookshop, he was convinced he could do better and opened a competing shop in Greenwich Village.

Mr Riggio had grown to six college bookstores by 1971 when he bought Barnes and Noble on Fifth Avenue, an institution that had fallen into decline. He transformed it into the "world's biggest bookstore" that serves as the model for today's superstores.

Barnes and Noble also owns more than 500 B. Dalton book shops in shopping malls while Borders owns Waldenbooks, another mall retailer with more than 900 shops.

Mr Riggio has declared a goal of 1,100 superstores by 2000 while Borders opens a new branch on average every ten days. The costs of such breakneck growth make for razor-thin earnings, but both chains enjoyed a 15 per cent increase in third-quarter sales compared with a year ago of $480 million for Borders and $614 million for Barnes and Noble. Wall Street remains encouraged that the firms have underlying profitability.

Still, some wonder who is buying all these books and how many are sent back under sale-or-return agreements with publishers. Yet Barnes and Noble has found an intriguing trend in readers' tastes.

The company has revealed that so-called bestsellers account for less than 3 per cent of its sales while titles from smaller publishers, independents and university presses continue to grow. Purchases from the top ten publishers have declined to 46 per cent of the total compared with 75 per cent just three years ago, reflecting a wider range of customer interest in lesser-known works of serious fiction and non-fiction than was previously recognised.

MARKETING

Blair may hold the key to a common market

This is a story about a marketing director slipping through the grasp of the French legal system, an obscure Greek ban on toy advertising, a flagrant challenge to the Treaty of Rome and a cry for help to Tony Blair.

The starring role, however, goes to marketing and the saga of how red tape is threatening to slowly, but surely, throttle the very life out of it. In the past few days the convergence of a number of factors has forced the issue of Brussels interference with the marketing industry to centre stage.

Last week the European Commission balked at taking action against member countries that have banned various marketing activities. In order for the bans to be lifted, the College of Commissioners has to recommend the cases to the European Court of Justice. Yet, despite being presented with what appears to be *prima facie* evidence of a breach of a central tenet to the Treaty of Rome — the right of a company to market its goods freely within a single market — the 20 commissioners will not budge.

A spokeswoman said: "The commissioners have to be convinced, and they, in turn, have to convince the court. These sort of complex legal matters do take time."

It is an excuse that doesn't wash with the Advertising Association. Lionel Stanbrook, its deputy director-general, said: "The whole point of a single market was to pull down the barriers to trade so you don't have to think about a different set of rules for each country. But these people [the commissioners] think marketing is an extension of social policy."

His wrath is focused on three controversial laws that, at the time of their introduction, were hailed as crusading pieces of social legislation in France, Germany and Greece.

France's *Loi Evin*, a ban on alcohol advertising that is activated only after receipt of a complaint, was introduced to combat teenage drinking. Germany's limits on sales promotions were to protect consumers from confusing and misleading price promotions and loyalty schemes. And Greece's restrictions on toy advertising were, in part, a reaction to the prospect of an unrelenting diet of American-style Barbie and Ken ads.

Although these laws have manifestly failed to achieve what they set out to do, they have put marketing in the dock. So draconian are these laws that the marketing director of one UK-based drinks firm was hauled before a judge in Toulouse, in the south of France, and threatened with a custodial sentence after a poster was found to be in breach of *Loi Evin*. It was only the skill of his legal team that saved him from jail.

In Greece, the ban has halved the sales of UK manufacturers in that country. Peter Waterman, an executive at Hasbro and a spokesman of the Toy Industries of Europe, says: "We bring out more new products than any other industry at any time. The only way to get these products to market is through advertising. And we can't do that."

The issue is not, however, limited to those industries immediately affected. The three cases are indicative of how Brussels refuses to deal a fair hand to the marketing industry, says Mr Stanbrook.

So exasperated is the Advertising Association that it is pinning its hopes on the one avenue left open to it: Great Britain's presidency of the EU. Tony Blair is being urged to champion marketing's cause when he takes up the presidency in the new year. It's an issue the industry wants to keep at the top of the agenda because every passing week sees the emergence of more laws that threaten to curb the activities of the marketing industry.

Whether it is France trying to impose a 1 per cent tax on all direct marketing, or Sweden banning marketing to children under 12, everyone is out to throw grit in the marketing engine. Last week the oddly-named ISDN directive was given the green light and could be law within months. It proposes that people can opt out of their directory information being used for telemarketing and direct mail purposes. A company would need prior consent before communicating with that particular person by the phone or post, thereby forcing companies to work within an impossible framework.

"We're not advocating a free-for-all. But if one thing is legal in one country then it should be legal in another," said Mr Stanbrook.

Marketing, it seems, is the outlaw of today's Europe.

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Inaction 2000

RICHARD BRANSON'S old mate, Don Cruickshank, is clearly not a man to be hurried. The outgoing Oftel boss has said that his role as the new head of the Government's Action 2000 will be "raising the tempo" of awareness of the millennium bug. But isn't Cruickshank taking a rather softly, softly approach?

Asked when Action 2000's web site and telephone hotline would be operational, Cruickshank answered "sometime in the new year", later admitting that Action 2000 was not prepared to answer calls yet. The task force has yet to finalise its budget for next year and has not even appointed a full-time director (Don will be working only one day a week).

But does this bother Cruickshank? Not a jot. He hasn't even appointed an acting director and says he thinks a wait of three months is reasonable to find the right person for the role. I assume Action 2000 will be up and running in time for the millennium.

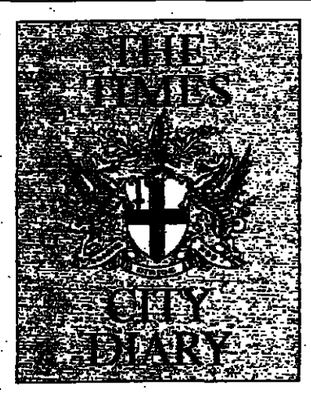


"It's Imelda Marcos with a last-minute bid"

☐ *THIS will all be music to the ears of those at Railtrack. Cruickshank has threatened to fine utilities which are not making adequate preparations for the millennium bug. But Railtrack tells me it has set up a Rail Millennium Project Office, headed by David Rayner, Railtrack's former head of safety, and funded to the tune of £1.5 million. "That's £500,000 more than the Government has spent," a spokeswoman boasts.*

Mace bonus

A HEART-WARMING tale for Christmas. The three founders of Mace, the construction project manager, are offering their staff up to 15 per cent of the company at cost. According to the chairman, Ian Macpherson, the move is an attempt to preserve the independence of Mace, which has recently received a number of bid approaches from large builders. But Macpherson, who set up Mace less than eight years ago with two colleagues and has seen it grow from eight staff to 450, is keen to maintain the group's independence for the future. He plans to offer another tranche in 1999 and another three or four years afterwards.



☐ *FULL marks to Deborah Dore of the Bermuda International Business Association, who, having read of the Geoffrey Robinson affair, contacted us with a glossy brochure on the advantages of setting up trusts in Bermuda. "Bermuda has acquired an exemplary reputation as a discrete and secure jurisdiction for asset preservation and wealth management," it boasts. I will pass on the brochure when we find out who, indeed, are the trustees of Orion Trust.*

Shopaholics

DAVID JAMES and Philip Green, who spent most of last week haggling over Sears' Shoe Express operation, spent most of yesterday haggling over who worked hardest. Green tells me he was up all night on Tuesday and Thursday, and in at the weekend, while, James, who turned 60 earlier this month, says he only managed to get home on Thursday night. "I've not worked so hard since the Danair rescue," James tells me. That does not sound encouraging for Sears.

So forgetful

I NOTICE an interesting similarity between the advertisement published yesterday on behalf of Dresdner RCM Global Investors (the new name for Kleinwort Benson Investment Management), showing a steel forge, and a similar advert run last year by Nabarro Nathanson, the lawyers, also showing a steel forge. Can it be a coincidence that both use the same advertising agency, Citigate Albert Frank?

Split personality

I TRUST that Sir Colin Marshall is taking a well-earned rest this Christmas. According to my calculations the CBI president has eight company directorships, including a handful of chairmanships, which is why there has been a little misunderstanding at Siebe.

Sir Colin is supposed to take over from Barrie Stephens at the helm of the Windsor-based electronics group next year, but Barrie wants to hang up his hat in February and Sir Colin says he will not be free then.

To solve this problem Sir Philip Beck is stepping in as temporary chairman. Not that he has all that much free time. He is already as director of Delta, Railtrack and Kitigawa Europe.

JASON NISSÉ



Sir Colin Marshall deserves a well earned rest this Christmas

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AIB BOVETT UNIT TRUST LTD				
0171 376 7970 Dealing: 0171 407 7888				
Protected Funds				
UK Safeguard	135.74	139.91	- 0.32	
Do RAY In Dec 99	136.83	141.03		
UK Equity Safeguard	109.54	117.14	+ 0.33	2.47
Do RAY In Sep 19	105.45	108.93		5.75
Cash	955.99	962.77		
UK Growth Funds:				
UK Equity Gen	368.20	391.85	- 4.00	1.72
UK Small Cos	76.16	81.59	- 0.06	0.49
FTSE 350 Index	98.53	105.37	- 0.75	2.11
Gearied UK Index	2299.63	2457.69	+ 25.00	1.75
Income Funds:				
Cons Bd	81.54	84.41	+ 0.11	
Monthly Inc	92.91	93.90	- 0.43	6.72
International Funds:				
American Gen	286.29	303.49	+ 1.90	
American Stat	334.68	354.68	- 0.11	
JG US Index	2225.64	1650.66	+ 26.06	4.02
European Gen	331.30	338.50	+ 1.50	
European Stat	139.34	148.02	- 0.99	
Japan Gen	197.69	207.70	+ 0.62	
Asia Pacific	98.13	70.64	+ 0.50	1.09
Pacific Gen	104.96	112.24	1.10	
Emerg Gen	302.12	316.12	+ 0.11	
Latin America	101.26	108.34	+ 0.79	
Int Growth	284.46	172.94	+ 0.76	
Balanced Funds:				
Balanced Inc	154.60	160.00		
Global Strategy	97.09	90.35	- 1.73	
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01200 553 231				
General Acc	837.50	890.50	- 7.26	2.56
General Inc	692.50	736.00	- 5.70	2.53
UK Growth Acc	578.90	615.80	- 5.90	2.52
UK Growth Inc	393.90	385.70	+ 3.00	2.52
Higher Inc Acc #	1069.00	1137.00	- 9.00	3.98
Higher Inc Inc #	549.70	584.50	- 5.60	3.98
Gilt & Fixed Int Acc	252.60	268.60	- 0.40	5.60
Gilt & Fixed Int Inc	99.90	102.40	- 0.20	5.60
Nth America	418.50	444.90	+ 4.00	
Europe	442.80	471.00	+ 5.20	0.60
Int Growth	115.20	122.50	- 1.90	0.28
Int Income	108.60	115.50	- 1.70	2.46
Int Growth Inc	93.71	99.68	- 0.67	4.48
Global Opps	108.60	115.50	- 1.70	0.28
Balanced Acc	72.54	77.12	+ 0.08	2.23
Balanced Inc	68.32	70.90	- 0.25	3.48
Japan Acc	53.15	55.76	- 0.07	
Pac Basin Acc	275.61	293.10	- 0.40	2.26
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
01345 717 373				
Grtr Ch Prop Inc	142.90	151.50	+ 0.20	5.90
Managed Inc Equity	209.60	220.90	+ 1.09	4.27
Worldwide Bond	277.30	288.90	- 3.20	5.56
American Growth	520.10	554.90	- 3.90	0.30
Asian Pacific	116.20	121.70	- 1.50	0.85
Equities & Property	328.96	362.50	- 1.50	2.83
Euro Capital Acc	238.70	256.10	- 2.70	0.78
Euro Inc	97.68	103.57	+ 0.07	4.18
General	314.90	326.00	- 0.27	0.40
Global Opps	74.54	79.20	- 0.27	
Japan	71.56	76.57	- 0.27	
Managed Inc	91.97	96.39	+ 0.22	4.07
Managed Acc	161.80	184.30	+ 0.60	1.14
UK Emerging Cos	212.70	227.60	- 1.00	
Ethical	89.61	95.36	+ 0.39	1.90
International	137.30	146.10	+ 0.10	0.60
Dividend & Growth	81.66	89.51	+ 0.16	4.02
Global Gilt & Sec	88.37	89.52	- 0.04	2.43
Latin America	78.36	81.23	+ 0.31	0.20
Capital Recovery	153.60	163.70	+ 0.30	4.58
ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0141 275 8500				
ISLP UK Equity	111.70	118.80	+ 0.90	1.54
Equity Income #	157.60	168.60	+ 1.30	3.74
Euro Income #	207.70	221.10	+ 1.80	0.82
Smaller Cos	107.60	108.00	+ 0.20	2.15
International	126.90	135.00	+ 0.90	
ABERDEEN UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0800 833 580				
American	77.96	81.07	- 0.24	
Emerging Mkt	57.63	60.63	+ 0.16	
European	166.87	173.45	- 0.95	
Extra Income #	57.82	60.85	- 0.21	4.61
Far East Emg Eqty	72.73	78.37	- 0.33	1.08
Fixed Interest #	28.13	29.31	+ 0.07	7.50
Fund Inv Tst #	151.50	159.63	+ 0.56	9.84
Japan	137.01	142.39	+ 0.96	
Latin American	96.67	70.39	- 0.90	
Pacific	53.86	56.53	- 0.45	0.22
Property	91.97	96.56	+ 0.13	3.19
UK Emerging Cos	71.96	77.75	- 0.45	0.42
UK Growth	68.54	71.91	- 0.48	1.20
Aber World Port #	86.78	91.34	+ 0.31	2.51
Ethical	84.82	88.21	- 0.76	0.91
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	50.58	50.58	+ 0.05	7.12
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0133				
UK Small Cos	2500.00	2606.00		
AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0171 256 5656				
Aerofil Property #	111.20	118.20	- 0.30	4.80
ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD				
01452 305 958				
Equity Income	107.58	114.14	- 0.46	1.74
Income Builder Inc	95.55	101.65	+ 0.43	3.19
B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
01293 536 911				
Cornish Ord Perp	133.80	139.00		
Founders Perp Pens	78.89	81.96		
BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD				
0131 222 4242				
American Sm Cos	443.80	472.20	- 2.50	
Bond	124.40	130.70		6.43
Brd Smlr Cos	112.90	120.10		1.90
Europe	344.10	365.30	+ 1.20	
Euro Smlr Cos	133.20	131.60	+ 1.70	0.31
High Income #	68.62	72.00	+ 0.03	5.42
Income	405.90	431.80	+ 2.30	3.98
Japan	269.90	286.60	- 0.90	
Latin American	102.10	108.60	+ 0.50	
Pacific	75.67	80.71	- 0.87	1.21
UK Smlr Cos	82.95	86.97	- 0.03	1.29
Japanese Sm Cos	438.20	452.10	- 4.50	
Mngd Fd	236.80	251.20	+ 1.40	2.43
BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD				
0171 488 8873				
Bnk & Overseas	427.70	450.10		0.78
Capital Gwth	180.20	183.40		2.48
Wrldw Opps	235.40	248.90		0.89
BARCLAYS FUNDS LTD				
Customer Help Desk 0161 522 4000				
Income Funds				
Cash	101.20	101.70	- 0.10	6.68
Cash Acc	131.20	131.30	+ 0.10	6.68
Income #	707.00	734.20	+ 3.80	2.97
Income Builder #	91.43	95.70	+ 0.37	4.56
Ind Income	83.60	99.94		1.49
Balanced Funds				
Exempt	105.10	111.80	+ 0.60	2.23
500	529.10	559.20	+ 1.10	2.62
General	400.80	426.10	+ 2.20	1.74
Property	364.10	383.30?		5.61
Trustee	282.20	300.20	+ 1.60	1.65
Growth Funds - UK				
Capital	179.40	191.60	+ 1.00	1.72
FTSE 100	130.10	138.10?	+ 0.60	2.74
Growth Acc	564.80	600.90	+ 3.60	1.52
Smaller Cos	60.90	64.96	+ 0.04	2.24
Smaller Cos Acc	73.35	78.24	+ 0.05	2.24
Growth Funds - Overseas				
America	231.70	244.90?	+ 2.50	0.03
American Growth	161.70	171.30	+ 1.90	
Japan	91.80	97.01	- 0.14	
Japan Acc	92.96	98.13	- 0.76	
Japan Spec Sits	41.63	44.19	- 0.09	
Worldwide	209.90	222.60	+ 1.10	0.85
Sterling Investment Portfolios				
Managed Income	93.15	98.82	- 0.02	7.10
Mgd Gwth & Inc #	92.13	96.93	+ 0.12	4.50
Managed Growth	86.39	91.66	+ 0.23	0.57
BARRIE FUND MANAGERS LTD				
0171 214 1800				
American Growth	181.60	191.90	+ 2.60	
Asian Smlr Cos	163.40	173.50	- 0.30	
Eastern	167.70	179.60	- 3.20	0.30
Equity Income #	124.00	132.10	- 0.90	4.20
European Growth	487.60	512.00	+ 5.80	0.60
Europe	421.60	449.80?	- 3.40	0.60
German Growth	106.30	113.30	- 0.50	0.50
Global Bond	73.59	79.25	+ 1.20	4.60
Global Growth	169.20	179.40?	+ 1.90	0.48
Japan Growth	106.60	112.80	- 0.70	
Japan Balanced	77.92	82.39	- 0.17	
Pacific Trust	13.50	21.31	+ 2.84	
Peripheral	172.30	183.80	+ 1.90	2.90
Pref & Income	332.70	353.90	+ 3.80	2.01
UK Growth	131.70	140.50?	+ 1.80	1.00
UK Smaller Cos	119.60	129.60		1.00
Select Managers	99.91	100.70	- 0.40	1.05
BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 250 3000				
Intl Gwth Fund Inc	100.07	106.45		
Special Sits Fd	57.22	60.90		
BRITANNIA FUND MGRS LTD				
0141 223 4000				
Balanced Growth	187.54	199.11	+ 2.56	
- do - Accum	242.11	253.69	+ 3.11	
Smaller Cos	35.19	139.78?	+ 0.26	
Higher Yield #	69.47	73.97	+ 0.38	5.56
Managed Cm Acc	133.19	137.74	+ 1.13	
Managed Growth	130.01	201.11	+ 1.13	
- do - Accum	197.20	205.41	+ 2.21	
Managed Income	58.15	60.61	+ 0.03	
- do - Accum	60.08	63.52	+ 0.12	
Int Spec Sits	182.37	189.97	+ 0.12	
Pacific Gwth	108.29	111.45	+ 1.06	0.01
UK General #	119.37	124.34	+ 0.11	2.53
- do - Accum #	133.17	138.71	+ 0.13	2.53
Japan	26.51	28.12	- 0.25	
Gilt & Fixed Int #	109.00	112.99?	- 0.12	7.31
BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0171 480 7216				
Short Dated Gilt	66.51	67.66	- 0.03	5.19
CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
0161 837 5060				
Equity	212.10	223.30?	- 0.70	1.55
UK Growth	265.50	279.60	+ 1.50	1.53
UK Income	167.30	176.10	+ 1.50	1.52
CANADA LIFE UNIT TST (UK) LTD				
01737 852 100				
Cash Gen Dist	121.70	247.40	- 2.30	1.19
- do - Income Dist	154.50	163.90?	- 0.50	2.05
- do - Accum	320.80	552.90?	- 3.40	2.00
Gilt & Fixed Int	91.05	96.34	+ 0.76	4.99
UK Gilt Unit Tst	222.20	143.90?	+ 2.76	4.78
Bond	189.90	193.40	+ 0.20	4.70
Int Equity	256.60	270.60?	+ 1.30	0.20
North American	319.90	338.50	+ 3.90	
Pacific	111.50	118.00	+ 0.60	1.69
Pref High Inc	255.50	273.20	+ 0.70	6.06
European	112.50	119.60	- 1.00	0.54
- do - Income	92.60	98.50	+ 0.01	
Managed Income	93.15	98.82	- 0.02	7.10
Managed Growth	86.39	91.66	+ 0.23	0.57
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD				
0161 831 7493 Enq 0161 831 7493 Dlg 0161 831 7495				
American & Gen	189.30	205.50	- 5.70	
European Inc	119.30	126.80	- 1.20	0.10
Smaller Cos Inc #	109.40	115.40	- 0.40	1.80
Sterling	627.60	623.90	- 3.20	1.58
Balanced Growth #	549.20	577.30	- 4.90	4.11
- do - Income #	405.30	964.20	- 7.70	3.75
Japan & Gen	47.14	49.68	- 0.25	
Hedgehog Gwth	1649.00	1610.00	- 8.30	1.64
- do - Income	1726.00	1806.00	+ 10.00	1.64
General Gen	156.70	166.91	- 0.70	1.61
High Yield	1556.00	17.7.00	+ 16.00	3.70
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0171 606 0700				
European Portfolio	114.11	121.37	+ 0.66	2.30
American Portfolio	162.36	172.10?	+ 1.21	0.70
European Portfolio	151.03	161.28	+ 0.46	0.27
High Income	86.54	90.39?	+ 0.06	6.54
Balanced Portfolio	43.16	45.77?	+ 0.03	
Pacific Portfolio	106.40	113.58?	+ 0.86	1.03
UK Equity	112.98	120.64	+ 0.73	2.96
UK Fixed Int Inc	97.00	71.00	+ 0.21	4.88
UK Smlr Cos	54.29	58.07	+ 0.22	1.63
CBF CHURCH OF ENGLAND FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Gth Fd Inc	62.42	66.62		3.66
Int Ed Acc	363.36	379.94		
Fixed Int Acc	162.06	169.20		8.79
Fxd Int Gtr Acc	173.27	173.97		
CDF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	854.09	907.61		3.83
Investment Acc	47395.73	43361.67		
Fixed Int Inc	133.66	134.20		8.64
Fixed Int Acc	205.53	206.52		
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 566 8900				
Stockmast Mtl	97.02	102.02		8.06
Gwth Rte-Tech	40.01	43.19?		
Accm Ethical Tst	214.05	227.71?		0.54
City Fin Invest	88.24	90.56	- 1.59	2.93
City Fin Int	85.53	92.05?		0.06
Fidn Hse Gbl	3555.00	3809.00	- 1.70	1.67
Bradley Wrld Gdn	143.30	153.00		
Stone Wndsr	84.09	85.84?	+ 0.68	3.48
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	47.86	50.78	+ 0.77	
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0345 772 233				
American Gwth	97.21	103.41	- 0.80	
Dragon Growth	45.81	48.99	- 0.22	1.63
Equity High Inc	112.16	120.80?	+ 0.96	3.11
- do - Accum	142.31	152.13?	+ 1.22	3.11
Extra Income Inc	29.00	30.53	+ 0.04	6.03
Extra Income Acc	33.71	35.49	+ 0.05	6.03
European Gwth	80.47	85.15	+ 1.05	0.15
Emergent	34.90	37.32	+ 0.05	
Fixed Equity	130.59	139.64	+ 0.97	2.25
Japan Growth	31.81	33.84	+ 0.06	
Pacific Gwth	80.34	85.91	+ 0.83	1.46
Pref Sm Cos Inc	41.77	44.70	+ 0.05	1.35
- do - Accum	44.82	47.59	+ 0.05	1.35
Retirement Inc #	33.84	36.05	+ 0.24	4.95
Special Sits	54.74	58.86	- 0.26	2.37
UK & Overseas	85.84	89.67	+ 0.72	0.58
COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD				
01634 898 000				
Balanced	81.35	84.73	+ 0.37	3.53
Capital	98.83	103.67	+ 0.54	1.65
High Income	56.58	58.93?	+ 0.10	6.48
Top 50	73.02	76.07	+ 0.63	1.92
COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD				
0161 688 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Lonely Inc	228.61	238.16	+ 1.30	4.25
Lonely Cap	61.11	63.70	+ 0.07	4.65
Monthly Inc Pen	58.57	61.02	- 0.12	7.34
Provenance Share	56.26	58.61	- 0.61	6.65
Balanced Funds:				
High Yield	164.71	171.58	+ 0.38	5.48
Managed Fund	84.31	87.83	+ 0.51	2.42
UK Growth Funds				
Capital Gwth	51.65	53.81	- 0.04	1.56
Cmn Fd Acc	61.77	64.35	- 0.05	1.56
- do - Accum	61.77	64.35	- 0.05	1.56
UK & General	122.13	127.22	- 1.06	2.13
- do - Accum	163.66	170.50	+ 1.43	2.13
UK Growth	243.52	253.69	+ 1.87	1.55
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	265.71	276.81	+ 3.65	0.48
Far Eastern Gwth	93.17	97.08	- 0.06	0.26
Global Bond	71.62	75.86	- 0.04	5.07
Japan Growth	84.29	87.72	+ 0.24	
North Amer Gwth	305.60	318.37	+ 3.89	
Oriental Growth	143.39	153.09	- 0.98	0.83
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	92.45	92.45	+ 0.04	6.50
Homestyles Fund	100.06	106.46	+ 0.43	2.03
Dealer Fund	172.91	183.95	+ 1.07	1.72
CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Consistent UT	41.62	44.49		2.73
COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD				
0800 526 356				
Growth	186.10	207.50?	+ 1.30	2.25
Income	87.97	93.59	+ 0.58	3.70
European Growth	91.68	97.56	+ 0.88	0.70
Recovery	205.60	218.70	- 0.20	1.92
CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 783 9494				
Equity Dist	1265.70	1277.60?		3.03
CREDIT SUISSE ASSET MGMT FDS (UK) LTD				
01277 699 370				
European Inc	85.72	87.12	+ 1.23	0.36
Fellowship Tst	130.90	128.60	+ 0.30	1.14
Income #	335.70	357.10?	+ 2.90	3.89
- do - Accum #	378.80	402.50	+ 4.00	3.88
Extra Income Inc	236.30	251.10	+ 0.40	0.73
- do - Accum	295.20	314.00	+ 0.50	0.73
Gth Portfolio	117.20	124.60	+ 0.70	7.27
Mthly Inc Port #	99.93	106.30	+ 0.60	3.93
DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD				
0171 478 1634				
Global Sm Cos	1788.50	1805.10		0.57
UK Small Cos	2319.10	2420.60		2.84
DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS				
0171 377 8819				
Disc Inc	253.30	264.10		
DRESDNER RCM FUNDS (UK) LTD				
Dealers: 0171 956 7354 Client Helpline: 0800 317573				
Formerly NBU				
Amer Smlr Cos	192.40	204.60	+ 1.90	
Asian Growth	179.80	190.20	- 2.10	0.30
Bond Income	188.20	192.30?	- 0.30	7.20
European	229.60	244.20	- 2.40	0.50
European Pov	121.80	129.50	+ 1.10	2.90
European Special	181.60	171.20	- 0.60	
Gilt Yield	127.90	134.50?	+ 0.10	9.30
Global Eqty Inc	134.50	142.70	+ 1.20	1.60
High Yield	198.30	210.90?	+ 2.50	4.50
Japan	252.10	250.50	- 0.30	
Japanese Special	122.80	130.60	- 2.10	
Money Market	102.55	102.55?	+ 0.04	6.00
North American	136.90	147.50	+ 1.50	
Smaller Cos	169.00	170.20	+ 0.20	1.00
Special Sits	99.64	73.67	+ 0.13	3.60
Tomorrows Co Inc	1149.00	1186.00	+ 6.00	0.10
UK Equity Growth	607.63	64.50	+ 0.46	1.10
UK Index Inc	116.80	125.80?		1.70
Global Income	250.50	266.40	+ 3.50	3.00
Formerly Dresdner European				
European	197.20	415.80	+ 3.80	0.80
Europe Bal	39.54	41.12	+ 0.41	6.40
Exempt	826.30	861.40	+ 5.94	2.70
Global Eq Mkts	72.80	76.26	+ 0.76	0.60
Japan Tst	68.13	62.96	+ 0.68	
Little Dragons	70.94	74.26	+ 0.21	
Irish Amer Gwth	382.60	411.00	+ 5.08	0.40
Oriental Income #	38.46	40.27	- 0.75	4.80
Preference	149.70	156.60	+ 0.46	7.60
Tiger	109.60	114.80	+ 1.22	
UK Blue Chip	103.00	102.86	+ 1.11	1.40
UK Growth	803.70	841.50	+ 7.16	0.60
UK High Yield #	143.20	149.80	+ 1.21	4.60
UK Mid Cap	376.10	393.70	+ 1.06	1.50
UK Smlr Cos Inc #	91.78	96.47	+ 0.07	5.80
UK Smlr Cos	132.70	144.10	+ 0.29	0.70
EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0345 090 525				
Convertibles #	74.88	76.73?	+ 0.09	5.34
Enterprise	126.50	127.70?		1.96
Equity Income #	171.90	182.60?	+ 1.30	3.51
European	78.23	80.72	+ 0.84	
Financial	71.29	75.75	+ 0.51	1.32
Growth & Inc #	354.10	376.20	+ 2.50	2.32
High Dist #	220.80	234.60?	+ 1.70	3.62
International	429.40	456.20	+ 1.70	0.22
Ind Cap Inc	117.10	125.00	+ 1.10	2.16
Latin American	34.82	37.00	+ 0.30	
Mgd Cash Pref	98.65	103.30		0.68
Pacific	63.88	67.87	- 1.12	
Prof High Inc	28.21	27.88	+ 0.07	6.45
Tiger	643.82	651.90	+ 1.40	
UK Smaller Cos	253.90	269.80	+ 2.30	1.11
Japan Sm Cos	226.70	240.90	- 1.40	
Nth Amer	534.70	565.90	+ 4.60	0.52
UK Inc & Gth	320.60	340.40	+ 2.50	2.18
ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD				
0171 242 0262				
BPI Deposit Dep	137.12	135.18	- 1.60	0.95
Growth Acc	316.40	336.60	+ 5.13	0.20
Income	638.50	680.35	+ 17.82	5.47
ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 373 7261				
Endurance Fd	244.66	259.40		1.02
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
01296 431 488				
Eurobond	113.35	119.29	- 1.31	1.47
Ethical Tst	54.73	57.61	- 0.73	1.06
Far Eastern	213.67	224.91	- 0.78	1.98
High Income	172.54	181.73	- 0.94	3.98
North American	166.13	169.61	- 0.98	2.41
Int Growth	125.49	140.31	- 0.72	1.40
North American	173.96	183.12	- 1.95	2.98
Pension	122.64	186.95	- 2.01	3.69
Smaller Cos	73.53	77.41	- 0.05	2.77
Special Sits	91.21	96.15	- 0.54	2.65
UK Equity Inc	232.54	244.78	- 0.19	1.64
EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD				
01392 412 144				
Capital Growth	133.67	141.65	+ 0.04	
Portfolio Tst	58.11	61.71	+ 0.03	0.47
High Income #	49.96	52.62	+ 0.01	10.74
Multi Yield Gilt	51.32	55.24	+ 0.08	
Extra Income	98.54	51.61	+ 0.02	
FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD				
01273 724 570				
Family Bond Tst	112.80	126.35	+ 0.700	2.12
Family Fund	341.20	363.20	+ 2.300	1.57
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD				
Callther Pmnts Client: 01800 414 161				
Cash Fund				
Cash Fund	100.20	100.00		4.80
Bond Funds				
Int Bond	36.17	37.34	- 0.33	5.35
Strategic Inc	32.79	31.65	- 0.12	5.37
Specific Funds				
High Income	31.58	33.65?	+ 0.17	4.75
American Plus	170.20	181.30?	+ 1.60	3.84
European Income	61.99	65.63	+ 0.53	1.78
Pan European Gwth	39.30	39.58	- 0.17	2.40
Equity Funds				
American	210.01	28.82	- 1.09	
Asian Spec Sits	418.60	444.20	+ 3.79	
Japan Smaller Cos	46.43	296.20	- 0.28	
Euro Smaller Cos	16.73	17.7	- 0.09	
Eu Special	350.60	310.50	- 2.00	0.31
European Gwth	102.10	114.30	- 1.30	0.49
Global Pwr	24.63	41.01	- 0.42	0.13
UK Growth	214.15	162.80	- 1.36	0.49
UK Special Sits	172.70	183.90	- 1.10	0.22
Managed Funds				
Dynamic Fund	207.29	220.49	- 1.40	0.54
Managed	168.91	179.81	- 1.14	0.93
Int Cap Inc	117.10	125.00	+ 1.10	2.16
Latin American	34.82	37.00	+ 0.30	
Mgd Cash Pref	98.65	103.30		0.68
Pacific	63.88	67.87	- 1.12	
Prof High Inc	28.21	27.88	+ 0.07	6.45
Tiger	643.82	651.90	+ 1.40	
UK Smaller Cos	253.90	269.80	+ 2.30	1.11
Japan Sm Cos	226.70	240.90	- 1.40	
Nth Amer	534.70	565.90	+ 4.60	0.52
UK Inc & Gth	320.60	340.40	+ 2.50	2.18
FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 814 2700				
Balanced #	165.49	167.20		1.05
Fleming Pr Inc #	177.62	177.62?	+ 2.66	6.74
Cap Protec	102.90	109.40	+ 1.60	
General Class	164.30	165.90?		3.26
Growth Inc	416.80	442.80		2.70
Private Portfolio	564.40	570.80		0.75
FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT				
Dlg 01277 696 386 Admin/Val 01277 696 350				
Euro Smlr Cos	169.10	173.70	+ 2.20	
High Income	82.40	87.80?	+ 0.11	5.45
Japan Smlr Cos	72.49	77.72	- 0.48	
US Smaller Cos	531.00	564.20	- 1.40	
FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD				
Enq 0171 320 8500 Dealing 0345 775511				
American Growth	182.20	192.10	- 1.50	
- do - Accum	192.00	188.10	- 1.50	
Amer Smlr Cos	247.40	258.30	+ 4.80	
- do - Accum	253.50	315.60	- 10.10	
Capital Tst	472.40	428.70	+ 0.40	1.26
- do - Accum	614.60	653.70	+ 0.72	1.26
Cont Europ Inc	96.17	71.12	+ 0.74	1.03
- do - Accum	71.22	76.35	+ 0.81	1.03
Convertible	149.32	159.80	+ 0.40	5.38
- do - Accum	138.20	149.60	+ 0.40	5.37
Emerging Markets	60.58	64.72?	+ 0.82	0.54
- do - Accum	57.99	62.22?	+ 0.81	0.54
European	185.10	199.70	+ 1.60	
- do - Accum	240.00	211.30	+ 1.76	
Extra Income	172.50	184.80	+ 2.30	3.99
GAM LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 434 4200				
Financial	238.40	253.60	+ 2.40	0.94
Global Bond	258.40	271.70	+ 2.50	0.94
Gth Trust	63.95	68.55	+ 0.05	7.04
Fixed Int Inc	105.30	108.60	+ 0.20	7.04
FP International				
Capital Gwth Acc	143.50	152.60?	- 0.90	0.56
Opps Cap Gth Acc	141.60	150.60	- 1.10	0.16
Cap Gth Inc Inc #	131.30	139.60	- 0.30	2.62
Cap Gth Cnv Acc #	127.20	134.90?	+ 0.50

هكذا من الإصل

Equities end at best of day

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
564	407½	Allied Domecq	535	+ 9½	4.6	13.7
635	385	Bulmer (HP)	567½	...	4.8	11.9
75½	40½	Burn Stewart	65	- ½	5.8	13.3
1048	865	Glenmorangie A	965	...	9.4	15.7
638	435½	Scottish Mlt	585	+ 3	3.2	16.8
6397	474	Seagrams	586	+ 2	3.3	16.1
380	280	Highland Distl	301½	...	3.3	13.9
136	181½	Matthew Clark	107½	- 1	3.7	13.9
109½	49½	Mnyrdon W	62½	- ½	14.0	5.8
2695½	1568½	SA Breweries	1468½	+ 77½	2.5	-

BANKS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1521½	919½	ABN-AMRO	1240½	+ 12½	2.5	17.6
1057	710	Abbey Nat	1057	+ 20	3.3	17.3
802½	532½	Alliance & Leic	793½	+ 4½	2.8	10.5
636	388½	Allied Irish	587	+ 4½	3.8	17.3
516½	363½	Anl New Z	398½	- 4½	5.1	-
4763½	2875	Bank Americ	4671½	+ 109½	-	-
595	391½	Bank Scotland	557	+ ½	2.9	15.4
1300	979½	Barclays	1715	+ 7½	2.4	16.3
620½	517½	Bk of Ireland	924½	+ 12	2.3	20.3
8594½	6030½	Citicorp	7866½	+ 50	-	-
1758½	1266½	Commercial	1670½	+ 21½	2.8	-
86½	40½	Dal Ichi Kan Y	845½	+ 3½	0.6	-
4593½	3769½	Deutsche Bk	4221½	+ 66½	1.5	-
1 300	759½	Espirito Santo	1193½	+ 1½	3.1	-
961½	749	Fuji Bank Y	2889½	+ 5	1.4	54.2
1369½	1272½	HSBC	1526½	+ 35	3.6	12.8
2258½	1266	HSBC HK	1512	+ 28	3.8	12.3
763	507	Halifax	745½	+ 16½	4.1	12.2
645	483½	Irish Perm	640	- 24	2.5	25.1
2507½	1827	Lloyds TSB	765	+ 28	2.3	22.3
1008	669½	Nat Aust Bk	8116½	+ 11½	4.7	-
1026	863½	Nat West	989	+ 21½	3.8	15.8
566½	449	Northern Rock	554	+ 14	2.0	22.3
798	508	Rpl Bk Scot?	758	- 7	3.5	14.8
1092½	792½	Stand Chart	988	+ 6	2.8	12.2
1164½	1164½	Wells Fargo	1164½	...	-	-
405½	315½	Westpac	371½	+ ½	3.8	-
373½	267½	Woolwich	321	+ 6½	3.1	19.0

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

966	685	Bass†	895	+ 11½	3.8	16.1
68½	43½	Brk Inv Bs Bdt	54	...	5.8	16.1
205	132½	Burtonwd Brw	153½	...	-	13.3
1559½	1215½	City Centre Rest	1383	+ 1	2.3	20.7
1	45p	Cons Gp	2½	+ ½	3.7	25.8
305	250	Eldridge P 'A'	290	...	-	-
265½	221	Enterprise Invst	244	...	3.8	-
485	412	Fuller Sm A 'r'	427½	...	3.1	13.8
1566	810	Greenalls Gp	1092½	+ 1	4.8	10.2
1170	810	Gresley Mongr	1170½	+ 3½	3.0	14.3
332½	152½	Grosvenor Inns	197½	...	4.0	20.6
2939½	2187½	Gwage Chez Ger	2911½	...	1.4	22.7
2989½	2139½	Hardy Hanso	2266	+ 7	2.1	6.5
2850	2125	Hall J	2125	- 25	3.5	11.9
78	57½	Inn Business	57½	- 1½	3.5	9.2
357	253	Mansfield†	301	...	3.0	14.2
315½	252	Minton Thmpt	286½	+ 2½	3.9	9.4
915	685	Morland	857½	...	3.7	-
2541	2110	Old Eng Pub	2535½	+ 7½	1.1	20.8
42½	18½	Paramount	22½	...	-	-
853	527½	Pizzaexpress	830½	...	0.5	41.8
437½	310	Ramsdens (H)	348	...	1.8	30.1
2230	1730	Regent Inns	1932½	...	1.2	25.8
130	102½	SFI	125	+ 6	10.7	26.5
768½	566	Scot & Newc	741	+ 20½	3.5	14.7
305	222½	Vaux Group	264½	...	3.4	11.9
359½	321	Wetherspoons JD	338½	...	0.7	38.1
918	620	Whitbread†	880	+ 16	3.5	15.1
706½	430	Wolverhampton Dl	464	...	5.0	10.5
362½	279½	Yates Bwrs	358½	+ 3	1.1	25.7
702½	515	Young 'A'	657½	+ 5	2.9	27.7

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

22½	15½	AAF Inds	20	...	-	-
230	170	Abbey	230	...	2.7	17.3
360½	237½	Allen	345½	- 6	3.2	17.0
168½	90½	Amec†	128½	- 5½	-	-
512	347½	Amey	457	...	2.7	16.9
733	485	Andrews Sykes	700	+ 2½	2.1	17.2
182½	111½	Ashtead	173	+ ½	12.2	23.9
68½	29	Ayscraft	39½	...	5.3	7.4
73½	54½	Bard	63½	...	3.4	15.8
297½	221	Barratt Devs	257½	- 2½	5.9	11.5
210	154½	Beazer	163	+ 1	3.1	10.5
398½	299½	Bellway†	352½	+ 3½	3.6	10.7
118	89½	Bellway	98	...	-	9.4
30	18	Bett Bros	20	...	4.0	7.1
23½	580½	Berkeley Gp	621	- 1	2.0	10.9
173	135	Bett Brost	166	+ ½	4.2	4.7
385	220	Bovt (Henry)	282	...	3.6	11.9
1379½	1127½	Brambles Ind	1189½	+ 1	1.3	15.8
155	99½	Brdcst Inv	111	...	4.5	4.7
159	106	Bryant	110	+ ½	3.7	11.8
125½	99½	CALA	110½	+ 1	4.6	8.2
21	7½	Campbell & Arm	21½	...	-	-
1042½	532½	Charter †	884½	...	2.9	9.8
46	29½	Costain	35½	...	-	-
109	71	Countryside	100	...	3.8	-
111	80½	Crest Nicholson	99	- 1	4.8	12.2
107½	67½	Cuerdon	94½	- 6	9.6	8.4
117	77	Davis Gp	102	...	4.9	9.5
291½	221	Bardt Devs	257½	- 2½	5.9	11.5
710	554½	Bwarf	663

Masters of a surreal universe

The National Film Theatre is devoting a season to Russian cinema. **Carol Allen** talks to one of its pioneer directors

Sergei Bodrov's film *Prisoner of the Mountains* is a useful illustration of what is happening in Russian cinema today. First there is the story itself, which could not possibly have been made in pre-glasnost days. The first major film to deal with the conflict in Chechnya, it tells of two Russian soldiers captured by a Chechen village elder, who hopes to exchange them for his son, held prisoner by the Russians. It is based on a story written by Tolstoy 150 years ago. As Bodrov says: "Same people, same war, same country.

"For 150 years Russia and Chechnya have had a difficult relationship. I wanted to make a human story. I didn't want to take sides. I never mention in the movie that it's Chechnya but it's clear that I am sceptical about the Russian role in this, and that would have been enough to get it banned in the old days."



Sergei Bodrov writes "between the lines"

The director speaks from experience. A writer for the satirical publication *Krokodil* in the 1970s, where he became an expert at what he terms "writing between the lines", he attempted to do the same thing when he turned to writing screenplays, but found that the directors who shot his films, eager not to fall foul of the censor, were excising the irony and just using the plot lines, turning them into films that were often applauded as popular comedies.

"But I was ashamed," says Bodrov. "I wanted to say something serious and so I wanted to direct." The director's credit was removed from his first film, because it upset the authorities. That was in 1985 when Gorbachev had just come to power, but before the reforms began to bite. Two years later his second, *Non-Professionals*, was initially banned because it mentioned Afghanistan.

The first film overtly to tackle the Afghan war was Vladimir Bortko's *Afghan Breakdown*, which was approved in 1988 but did not reach the screen until early 1992, by which time the Soviet Union had collapsed. Both *Prisoner of the Mountains*, which opens in Britain in February, and *Afghan Breakdown* are featured in the National Film Theatre's current season of contemporary Russian cinema.

A more honest depiction of Russia at war is by no means the only theme to emerge in post-glasnost cinema. As Ian Christie, the compiler of the NFT season, explains: "First of all there was the looking back and the facing up to the present, asking, how did we get to this dreadful situation? *Is It Easy To Be Young?* in 1987 was a Latvian film which was shown all over Russia and caused a crisis of national self-confidence. It's a documentary which shows that young people had completely lost faith in all the institutions. *Repentance* was about not having dealt with the legacy of Stalin, and *Little Vera* was a very frank portrayal of a dysfunctional Soviet family, which showed just how miserable life had become.

"Then there's the hallucinatory fantasy films which developed in the late 1980s, as if that were the only way to deal with the absurdities and the paradoxes of the Soviet regime. For example, *The Kerosene Seller's Wife*, directed by the actor Aleksandr Kaidanovski, is a bit like David Lynch or David Cronenberg, full of grotesque images, using fantasy to say that the Soviet Union is a surreal universe and there's no point in trying to make sense of it."

In the 1990s the understandable fascination with the past has continued, with a particular interest in the 1930s. Examples in the NFT season include Mikhalkov's Oscar-winner *Burnt by the Sun* and *Hammer and Sickle*, an absurdist projection of Stalin's edict: "If the Motherland needs soldiers we'll make soldiers, and if it needs mothers, we'll make them," which involves a sex change from heroine to hero.

Russian cinema, however, faces two practical challenges with which film-makers in the West are all too familiar. Along with the freedom to make the films that they want, the removal of state finance means film-makers have the problem of raising the money. In the early glasnost days cinema enjoyed something of a boom, with the reduction in state funding being made up partly by the Russian Mafia, which used films to launder money.

But much of the new free cinema failed to appeal to the Russian audience, who once went to the cinema more often than Americans. They started turning to television, where ironically some of the most popular programmes are now old Russian movies. Many cinemas have either fallen into disrepair or have been turned into car showrooms and other commercial enterprises. As in other formerly communist countries, the film-makers who are surviving are having to learn the business side of film: how to make distribution deals, co-productions deals, video and television sales and, most importantly, keep control of costs.



A scene from Bodrov's *Prisoner of the Mountains*, the first major film to deal with the conflict in Chechnya, based on a Tolstoy story

Bodrov raised the money for *Prisoner of the Mountains* in Kazakhstan, and shot it in neighbouring Dagestan, only two hours' walk from where the fighting was still taking place. He had also by then learnt the importance of listening to his audience, remembering remarks made to him after screenings of *Freedom is Paradise*, his 1989 film about children in reform school, which did much to establish his international reputation.

"The audience would say: 'We know you're making really good movies, but they're so dark and our lives are so tough now. Remember your old wonderful comedies? We want to laugh, we want another kind of movie.' You must understand though, we made those dark movies because we were burning to tell the stories which had been forbidden. When we got this freedom nobody knew for how long it would continue."

Prisoner of the Mountains, however, hit a popular emotional nerve in Russia and pulled in the domestic audience. It was also nominated for the best foreign film Oscar last spring. There is still a dark streak in contemporary Russian cinema, but film-makers are beginning to lighten up and win back more of their domestic audience. Two comedies chosen by Christie for his season illustrate this.

"*Peculiarities of National Hunting* was a huge popular success. It's incredibly funny and was highly controversial, in that even as people went to see it they said: 'This portrays us as a nation of hopeless drunkards. Should we be laughing at it?'

"There's also *Everything Will Be OK* by a new film-maker, Astrakhan, which is a 'feel-good' social comedy dealing in a very witty way with the absurdities of the new Russia, such as commercialism."

For Bodrov, who now lives mainly in the United States with his American wife, a whole new world of film-making possibilities has opened up. "I have good stories to make in America, I want to make a movie in China and in India, and some day I will make a movie in Russia again. After all those years of living in an Iron Curtain prison, I'm enjoying my life and the fact that I can work everywhere."

● Russia in the Shadows *continues at the NFT, South Bank (0171-928 3232) until December 31*

BRIEFLY NOTED

Factory to close?

OPERA: One of Britain's most pioneering opera companies, Opera Factory, has told its supporters that its next show will probably be its last. The company, founded 15 years ago by the Australian director David Freeman, loses its Arts Council grant from the 1998-99 season. Its final offering will be a new commission, *And the Snake Sheds its Skin*, by Habib Faye, presented at the Drill Hall in London in April. But even that production is in doubt: £20,000 towards the staging has yet to be raised.

GALLERIES: Ten readers of *The Sun* are to have their portraits of the Royal Family exhibited at the National Portrait Gallery. The show, which opens tomorrow and runs to January 25, displays the winners of a competition organised by the newspaper. More than 200 readers entered, their portraits ranging from oils and watercolours to pencil sketches and embroidery. Peter Grant, a former Butlin's portrait painter, received the £1,000 first prize.

POP: Still they rock on. The Rolling Stones keep up the amazing momentum of their "twilight years" with a Wembley Stadium show in front of 72,000 on August 20 next year. Part of their *Bridges to Babylon* world tour, it will be the eleventh time that the Stones have appeared at Wembley Stadium — a record exceeded only by Michael Jackson (15 shows). Also returning to Wembley Stadium next year — for the sixth time — will be Elton John: he plays two *Face to Face* shows with Billy Joel next June.

THEATRE: After *Wilde* the movie comes Wilde the stage show. A highlight of the Almeida Theatre's spring season will be the world premiere of *The Judas Kiss* by David Hare: a play about Oscar, Bosie . . . and betrayal. Liam Neeson takes the part of Wilde, and Sir Richard Eyre directs an Almeida show for the first time — although the performances will not be at the Islington theatre, but at the Playhouse in the West End. *The Judas Kiss* opens on March 19 for a six-week season, followed by a probable transfer to Broadway.

CLASSICAL MUSIC: **Barry Millington** on two London orchestral concerts

More than ample

Gidon Kremer recently suggested that there was a tendency to regard Brahms's music as "fat", preferring his own slimmed-down interpretation of the Violin Concerto. **James Levine** unquestionably adheres to the fat view of Brahms, and the first of his three Festival Hall concerts with the **Philharmonia Orchestra** was an unashamed celebration of amplitude.

Puritanical as it would be to criticise this approach to Brahms as intrinsically misguided — even in view of all the recent attempts to recapture the kind of sonorities the composer would have imagined — Levine's readings failed to convince even on their own terms. His abiding vice, in terms of symphonic structures, is his inability to shape them into a coherent unity. He lives for the moment and cares little for the consequences. Thus, in the first movement of the Fourth Symphony we were offered warm, succulent string tone and bursts of radiant lyricism, but the tempo relationships were so bizarrely conceived that the orchestra never settled down.

The tempo wandered alarmingly in the Andante too, where pointed phrasing and hushed passages began to seem unduly self-conscious. The Scherzo was brutal and heavy, lacking charm or even — in spite of the pace — real energy. The passacaglia finale, which should have tied all the ends together, seemed more undisciplined than ever, and with the brass used as a battering ram, orchestral blends never stood a chance.

Maxim Vengerov's approach to the Violin Concerto is neither "fat" nor "thin". Rather he brings to it an irresistible eloquence and lyricism that conquer all. At first it looked as though he would tame Levine's brute force, and indeed there was some sublime playing in the first movement, particularly when Vengerov was free to rhapsodise. As a whole, however, the movement failed to convince because it was simply structurally unsound. If it is made to sound like a succession of beautiful moments with no linking thread, the composer has not been well served.

A very slow tempo for the Adagio is sustainable provided the orchestral accompaniment does not give the impression of treading water. That impression was not always avoided here, but the divinely inspired singing quality of Vengerov's tone carried the day, as did his virtuoso brilliance in the gypsy finale.

Introducing her Clarinet Concerto, receiving its London premiere at the Barbican on Thursday, Diana Burrell made it clear that the traditional Beethovenian heroic gestures of the individual pitted against the world were not for her. Rather the soloist, here the **Northern Sinfonia**'s excellent principal clarinettist, Robert Plane, engages in constructive dialogue with the orchestra, offering it new ideas which are picked up and discussed.

These ideas are graphically and robustly exchanged, however. Burrell has a penchant for pithy instructions in the score, reminiscent of Percy Grainger — "Short and spiky", "Celebratory. Strong" — and the music has a corresponding directness that is most refreshing.

In the slower middle section the soloist introduces a disturbing element with growling multiphonics. The orchestra's response is an adroitly observed evocation of urban life that is enacted on several levels simultaneously.

The more celebratory aspect emerges strongly near the end where horns and trumpets are finally given their head, though for the most part the Concerto is sparsely scored. The Northern Sinfonia under its artistic director, **Jean-Bernard Pommier**, made a convincing job of it all, enabling Plane to give an assured and persuasive account of the solo role.

In Ravel's Piano Concerto in G, Pommier himself was the soloist, directing from the keyboard. His fingerwork was nimble and often refined, even if some of the orchestral playing was too brazenly highlighted. Solo passages frequently loomed too large and textural detail needed to be more recessed and suggestive.

A similar flaw was evident in Schumann's Symphony No 2, with some episodes of the first movement failing to blend in ideally, and the atmosphere of mystery in the slow movement compromised by playing that was competent rather than outstanding. Pommier put his forces through their paces in the Scherzo, however — a test that they passed with flying colours — and the finale built to a resonant and satisfying conclusion.

Richter CD offer

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POP: Highlights of a world music weekend. Plus pop-folk for the faithful

Clashing cultural symbols

Womad Global Spirit
Barbican

A Womad weekend can often remind one of John Masefield's poem *Cargoes* — a global shipment of emeralds and amethysts, topazes and gold moidores of the musical variety, and plenty of "firewood, ironware and cheap tin trays" on sale at the myriad stalls on the fringe.

There was no "quinquireme of Nineveh" but, from strife-torn Mogadishu, after a seven-month walk across the Horn of Africa with her five children to escape the recent civil war in Somalia, came **Maryam Mursal** and her band **Waaberi**. Timeless and passionate, their powerful chants and acoustic rhythms drew on centuries of cross-fertilisation between nomadic African and Arabic tribes.

On the free stage in the foyer **Justin Valli** from Madagascar performed thrilling melodies on the valiha, a tubular zither made from bamboo, while the conservatory stage revealed the soulful **Djivan Gasparyan** from Armenia with his duduk, a reedy woodwind instrument of plaintive beauty.

Much of the excitement in world music comes from cultural seepage along music's trade routes. Now based in Belgium, **Zap Mama**'s journey from Zaire has resulted in the best kind of synthesis — swooping tribal voices and ancient a cappella harmonies, elements of hip-hop rhythms and the funky stage presence of Marie Daulne.

From Kenya **Geoffrey Oryema** was not so much a fusion of cultures as a clash of them. He began with a series of mesmeric tunes on traditional East African instruments but then introduced keyboards and guitar and offered a series of contemporary songs that could have graced a James Taylor album. He has a remarkable voice but the effect was schizophrenic. **Blekbala Mujik**, an Aboriginal band from Australia's Northern Territory, were also disappointing — conventional rock with didgeridoo and a few slogans about land rights. Yet what right do Western critics have to demand that ethnic performers remain in a cultural ghetto and eschew outside influences?

One of the highlights of Global Spirit turned out to be a home-grown act. **Ghostland**, playing only their second live date, combined powerful rock elements with sweeping strings, Celtic-influenced melodies and Arabic drones. This eclectic musical backdrop was augmented by guest singers Natacha Atlas, with a voice redolent of the souks and casbahs of North Africa, and Sinéad O'Connor, whose rich backing vocals on the mantra-like *Guide Me God* created one of the most memorable moments in a musical mystery tour of a magical weekend.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

Dulled by polish

The Sundays
Union Chapel, N1

CONSIDERING that they last played live five years ago, and that this tour had already been postponed twice, it was amazing that so many devotees still turned up to catch ethereal pop-folk group the Sundays in Islington on Thursday night. But several hundred of the faithful dutifully packed out the pews of London's most atmospheric music venue.

Not that the band delivered a flawless set. It was just such a rare treat to hear Harriet Wheeler's extravagantly beautiful singing voice in public after so lengthy a hiatus. Wheeler and her partner, guitarist David Gavurin, form the creative nucleus of the Sundays, although their live line-up incorporates three extra musicians to beef up their floaty, shimmering sound.

The first number was a graceless and leaden reading of the band's formerly fleet-footed breakthrough single from 1989, *Can't Be Sure*. Indeed, for much of the set clattering drums and intrusive guitars drowned Wheeler's sublimely elegant warble. The best tunes featured just a skimming acoustic guitar or sparing instrumentation.

Tellingly, these tunes and most of the other highlights date back to the band's marvellous debut album, *Reading, Writing and Arithmetic*. After two further albums of increasingly timid and conservative fare, the Sundays have recently taken on a more sleepy and suburban demeanour. Thus the newer songs in their set, with the notable exception of the effusive recent single *Summertime*, were undeniably crafted and competent but lacked the old urgent sparkle. As the last wave of polite rapture faded, it was hard not to wish for a little less polished maturity.

STEPHEN DALTON



The Sundays: great voice, shame about the sparkle

Star's turn

YOU know you are in the presence of royalty when the opening applause is prompted, not by the entrance of the star herself, but by the arrival of the head of her fan club. *Clive Davis writes.* When **Nina Simone** arrived on-stage at the end of the Global Spirit festival, she could have won a standing ovation simply by slipping out of her extravagant fur coat.

The music did not entirely live up to the grandiose preliminaries, but there is no point expecting mere consistency from Simone's concerts. Trying to deliver an objective assessment is made more difficult by the sycophantic response of her audience. She played shamelessly to them at times, at one point veering into an over-ripe, up-tempo arrangement of *My Way*. Yet such is the force of her personality that the song ultimately came across as a bald statement of fact.

Although she did not look in the best of health, the good news was that she seemed in unusually good spirits, trading banter and, at the close, encouraging a sing-along on *My Baby Just Cares For Me*. There is no denying, though, that her singing has lost much of its lustre. Amid the whoops of delight from the stalls, it was almost distressing to hear her negotiating the melody of *I Loves You Porgy*. Only the shadow of the voice was left, yet it was still a strangely compelling experience.

The programme moved at its own idiosyncratic pace, an initial sequence of gospel numbers, including *If You Pray Right*, giving way to a halting version of *Here Comes the Sun*. An entirely redundant drum and percussion duet gave her an opportunity to slip backstage before she returned with the coy lyrics of *Sugar In My Bowl* and a reading of *Baltimore* that smuggled in a reggae beat halfway through.

هكذا من الأصل

BRIEFLY NOTED

Factor to close

But the spirit is weak

MARILYN KINGWILL



Martyn Stanbridge, Mali Harries and Damien Goodwin in the underwhelming Gothic melodrama, *The Castle Spectre*

The Castle Spectre
Warehouse, Croydon

After the sensational success of the novel that gave him his nickname, M.G. "Monk" Lewis turned to the stage and in 1797 enjoyed an equivalent triumph with this Gothic melodrama of a bold bad earl, an elder brother chained for 16 years to a dungeon wall, a valiant maiden and her high-falutin lover. The first audiences thrilled to the scenic effects, the ghosts real and pretended, the last-minute rescues and abrupt reversals of fortune.

Later the play became an entertainment where audiences could feel superior to the tastes of their grandparents, so much so that a critic could write of an 1880 revival that "people dislocated many of the stalls with their mirth".

In its bicentenary year two London companies have blown the dust off this ancient piece. At the Rose and Crown, Hampton Wick, the Comyns Carr Theatre Company appears to be playing it fairly straight, which cannot be said of Phil Willmott's version at the Warehouse in East Croydon, where much of the old baby was thrown out when the new bathwater was thrown in.

The fragments of the original that I have read seem sturdy enough, but I guess that other passages are neither intentionally nor accidentally funny enough to hold the stage today. Lewis himself introduced comic servants into his story, but for him they functioned as foils to their broodingly wicked master. By employing them the Earl of Conwy scored no points for common sense, but at Croydon, where his household is seriously understaffed for a man of fabulous wealth, his fondness for sharing details of his plots with two untrustworthy servants makes him look perfectly fat-headed.

Listening to the characters slide from the high-sounding and sententious style of Lewis, chockful of meaty adjectives, to Willmott's simpler retorts is depressing, even before they take the next step and descend to *Carry On Spectre*. Love potions drunk by a servant who then starts kissing his master, disabling blows to the male groin — these are such obvious ways of spoofing for laughter and, since they have become the house style for Christmas shows at this venue. I suppose it means that Ted Craig knows his audience.

We are offered a thinnish comedy that sends up the postures of melodrama but does not give us the frissons of scenic horror. Nor, with only one woman in the cast, can it show us virtuous, valiant Angela (Mali Harries) and the ghost of her murdered mother at one and the same time, so phut goes the blood-spattered climax.

Among some stiff, puddingy acting Damien Goodwin brings a touch of relish to the blundering lover, and Martyn Stanbridge is a handsome villain in black velvet. They deserve a better melodrama.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Carry on therapy

Think No
Lyric Studio

THERE is something deeply peculiar about a man who makes a career out of impersonating Kenneth Williams. It's a bit like building your own pier to sink at the end of it. David Benson is the man with this obsession. Crowding a black corner of the Lyric Studio with just a chair and a spotlight, he adopts a nasal twang, sucks in his cheeks, clenches a phantom lemon between his buttocks, and rolls his eyeballs as if infected with BSE.

"Ooh, my mother loves a bit of tongue," Benson intones saucily, nodding his head, wrinkling his nose and arching his eyebrows. The audience laughs. It's a faultless piece of mimicry. "Your thighs will be ablaze," he says in mock concern to a strapping labourer in danger of sunburn. As the innuendos pile up, so does the image of Williams as a peevish short-tempered man who gives two fingers to autograph hunters and American tourists. Benson paints a man beloved of millions but in reality an ailing loner who couldn't love himself.

The starting point of this strange fascination is that in 1975, aged 13, Benson wrote a story that was chosen and read out by Williams on *Jackanory*. That seems to have been enough to turn his head permanently. As with all obsessions, Benson turns out to be more interested in himself than the off-screen persona of Williams. Neither of their lives makes pleasant viewing. The flow of innuendo dribbling from the *Carry On* star becomes oppressive and boring. When Benson drops his impersonation to talk about himself we hear of a childhood disturbed by a clinically insane mother "who the whole family wanted to murder". Self-deprecating stories of jolly school showers and puberty fail to hide Benson's awkward adolescence and fear of being gay.

His desire to hang out his laundry with Williams seems entirely to do with self-worth rather than entertainment. While Williams never quite found self-love, Benson has discovered plenty doing this show. My main criticism is that he doesn't make his therapy nearly entertaining enough.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

Devil gets the best tune

Buskin'
Tivoli, Dublin

IF WE learn anything from the story of Faust, it is that things that look too good to be true often are. Amid the usual Mother Gooses, Aladdins and Sinbads, the appearance of a musical based on the legend could have offered some welcome seasonal substance.

Brian O'Reilly's *Buskin'* is not, however, the sort to grapple too long or too hard with questions of sin, redemption or immortality. For his telling of the story, O'Reilly recasts the devil as a shady Mafioso impresario (Garry Montaine) who offers a fast track to *Top of the Pops* to a naive busker (Gavin McCormack). Somewhere back home there is a girlfriend (Ursula McLoughlin) who may yet save the weepy busker from his fate, while in the big city an evil temptress (Rebecca Smith) enlists on Satan's side. Outside this basic line-up, characters quickly slip over the event horizon.

For *Buskin'* to have been a better musical, such a raw statement of plot should have been simply a starting point, a signpost to where the evening's pleasures originate. In *Buskin'*, it is almost all there is.

What *Buskin'* lacks is any sense of something being busked. It sticks rigidly to its own familiar formulas, avoiding the unorthodox as though it might constitute dramatic weakness.

The evening consequently falls short on fun. What pleasure there is comes mainly from Montaine's Old Nick, an engaging rogue with the best tune of the evening, the Dixie-flavoured *Old Devil Blues*. As the busker, McCormack spends rather too much time delivering ballads to have any chance of building a character. Neither Smith nor McLoughlin fares much better.

Nobody is really helped by the design of the show, which is full of distracting inconsistencies. The decision to style the devil and his entourage as 1930s gangsters and then have them perform a rap number is one aspect of the production which does not seem to have been fully thought through. As with much of *Buskin'*, it is hard to believe that some fresher solutions could not have been found to some old, old problems.

LUKE CLANCY

LONDON

CHRISTMAS BY CANDLELIGHT: The mellifluous voice of Rosa Mannion can be savoured tonight as the English soprano joins the Orchestra and Choir of St John's for a seasonal programme featuring works by Tallis, Handel, Bach and Purcell. John Lubbock conducts St John's, Smith Square, SW1 (0171-222 1061). Tonight, 7.30pm.

ELISABETTA: The Royal Opera in exile marks the bicentenary of Gaetano Donizetti with the world premiere of the composer's "lost" trag-comedy, discovered in the company's archives in 1884. Carlo Rizzi conducts a concert performance by the Royal Opera House Orchestra and Chorus. Soloists include Andrea Rost and Roben Leggate. **Festival Hall**, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tonight, 7pm.

HEIDI GRANT MURPHY: London debut for the American soprano whose growing reputation in her native land has led to a number of bookings across the globe. Tonight's recital spans four centuries and includes works by Handel, Schumann, Mahler and Barber. She is accompanied on the piano by her husband, Kevin Murphy. **Wigmore Hall**, Wigmore Street, W1 (0171-935 2141). Tonight, 7.30pm.

PETER PAN: Ian McKellen plays Hook and Mr Darling, with Daniel Evans as the boy who won't grow up and Alec McCowen as the storyteller, in a new version by Trevor Nunn (who also directs) and John Caird. **National Theatre** (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Opens tonight, 7pm. In repertoire.

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM: The ice dancing dream team **Torvill and Dean** kick off their new skating spectacular, *Ice Adventures*, here. The collaboration of *Mr Bean* writer, Robin Driscoll, has lent a touch of visual comedy to the production which features a hand-picked company of international skating stars and promises more dazzle and glitz than anything the duo has produced before. **NEC**, Junction 6, M42 (0121-780 4133). Tonight-Dec 28, 7.30pm, mats Dec 20 and 26, 2pm. No performances Dec 25 and 26.

CHELTENHAM: Writer and composer of the musical *Whistle Down the Wind*, Richard Taylor, turns his attention to the ancient tales of **Arabian Nights** to create an evening of Eastern magic.



Heidi Grant Murphy debuts at the Wigmore

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie

ART: Ron Cook, Nigel Havers and Malcolm Storry in this exceptionally interesting drama about friendship, unspoken resentment and an almost all-white painting. **Wyndham's**, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736). Tue-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat and Sun, 5pm.

THE CHAIRS: Richard Briers and Geraldine McEwan superb in Ionesco's comic portrait of human hopes and folly. Simon McBurney directs for Complicite. **Royal Court Downstairs** (Duke of York's), St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-565 5000). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 3.30pm. Until Jan 31.

THE FRONT PAGE: Alun Armstrong and Griff Rhys Jones play hard-nosed editor and ace reporter, leading a lovely cast in Sam Mendes's production of the classic Ben Hecht/Charles MacArthur comedy set in the newspaper world. **Donmar Warehouse**, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

AN IDEAL HUSBAND: Return of Peter Hall's enjoyable production, brimful of deceptions. Starring Martin Shaw and Simon Ward, and Kate O'Mara as the svelte troublemaker **Gielgud**, Shaftesbury Ave, W1 (0171-494 5065). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Thur 3pm and Sat, 4pm.

JULIAN CLARY — SPECIAL DELIVERY: JC is here until the New Year, teetering on and over the boundary of conventional good taste. One of the show's motifs, believe it or not, is babies. **Vaudeville Theatre**, The Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 3pm. Until January 3.

LITTLE EYOLF: Terrific playing by Robert Glenister and Joanne Pearce at the heart of Adrian Noble's superb Ibsen production. Guilt, remorse and renewal in the fjord. **Pit**, Barbican Centre, Silk St, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight-Thur, 7.15pm, mat Thur, 2pm. In repertoire.

THE MAGISTRATE. Ian Richardson plays the much harassed hero of Pinero's evergreen farce. Nicholas Broadhurst's cast from Chichester includes Graham Crowden, Abigail McKern and Frank Middlemass. **Savoy**, The Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

SLAVA'S SNOWSHOW: Slava Polunin and his company return with their display of ingenious clowning.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only
◪ Some seats available
□ Seats at all prices

Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (0171-928 7616). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Sat and some weekdays, 4pm.

□ **STEPPING OUT**. Musical version of Richard Harris's hit play (music and lyrics by Denis King and Mary Stewart Dawd). Julia McKenzie directs Liz Robertson and her hopeful hoofers. **Albery**, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (0171-369 1730). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thur, 3pm and Sat, 4pm.

□ **THINK NO EVIL OF US**. David Benson completes more than a year of touring his fascinating, semi-autobiographical biography of Kenneth Williams. **Lyric Studio**, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 (0181-741 8701). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 4.30pm.

LONG RUNNERS

□ **Blood Brothers**: Phoenix (0171-369 1733) . . . ◪ **Buddy**: Strand (0171-930 8800) . ◪ **Cats**: New London (0171-405 0072) . □ **Grease**: Cambridge (0171-494 5080) . □ **Martin Guerre**: Prince Edward (0171-447 5400) . ◪ **Les Misérables**: Palace (0171-434 0909) . □ **The Mousetrap**: St Martin's (0171-836 1443) . □ **Oliver!**: Palladium (0171-494 5020) . ■ **The Phantom of the Opera**: Her Majesty's (0171-494 5400) . □ **Starlight Express**: Apollo Victoria (0171-416 6054).

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

NEW RELEASES

A FURTHER GESTURE (15): Stephen Rea's escaped IRA prisoner finds life hard in Manhattan. Eloquent human drama, with Rosana Pastor and Alfred Molina. Director, Robert Dornheim. **ABC Piccadilly** (0171-437 3561)

I KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER (18): Reckless teenagers get their comeuppance. Variable horror film from the writer of *Scream*. With Jennifer Love Hewitt, Freddie Prinze Jr. Director, Jim Gillespie. **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Plaza** ◪ (0990 888990) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ◪ (0181-970 6015) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

PERSONS UNKNOWN (18): Joe Mantegna, Kelly Lynch and Naomi Watts burn their fingers stealing drug money. So-so crime thriller, directed by George Hickenlooper. **Metro** (0171-437 0757)

◆ **TOMORROW NEVER DIES** (12): Pierce Brosnan's James Bond combats an evil media mogul (Jonathan Pryce). Set piece thrills, but little sparkle. With Michelle Yeoh and Ten Hatcher. Director, Roger Spottiswoode. **ABC Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Barbican** ◪ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Curzon Mayfair** (0171-369 1720)

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

Greenwich (0181-235 3005) **Notting Hill Coronet** ◪ (0171-727 6705) **Odeons: Camden Town** (0181-315 4255) **Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Leicester Square** (0181-315 4215) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636)

CURRENT

◆ **ALIEN RESURRECTION** (15): Sigourney Weaver's Ripley returns to combat more aliens in a jaunty sequel that ultimately gets out of hand. With Winona Ryder. **ABC Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Greenwich** (0181-235 3005) **Odeons: Camden Town** (0181-315 4255) **Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **West End** (0181-315 4221) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636)

◆ **THE BORROWERS** (U): Minuscule scavengers fight for their home. Exhilarating family film, much adapted from the children's classic. With John Goodman, Jim Broadbent. Director, Peter Hewitt. **Barbican** ◪ (0171-638 8891) **Greenwich** (0181-235 3005) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Plaza** ◪ (0990 888990) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ◪ (0181-970 6015) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (U): Frank Capra's American classic, revived in a new print. With James Stewart as the doubting do-gooder. **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Curzon West End** (0171-369 1722) **Screen/Hill** ◪ (0171-435 3366) **Virgin Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636)

LAWN DOGS (15): Two outsiders form a dangerous friendship in Kentucky. Imaginative drama, with strong performances by young Mischa Baron and Sam Rockwell. **ABC Swiss Centre** (0171-439 4470)

THE TANGO LESSON (PG): A film director learns to tango. Brave and enticing film by the director of *Orlando*, Sally Potter, who co-stars with Pablo Veron. **Chelsea** (0171-351 3742) **Odeon Mezzanine** ◪ (0181-315 4215) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402)

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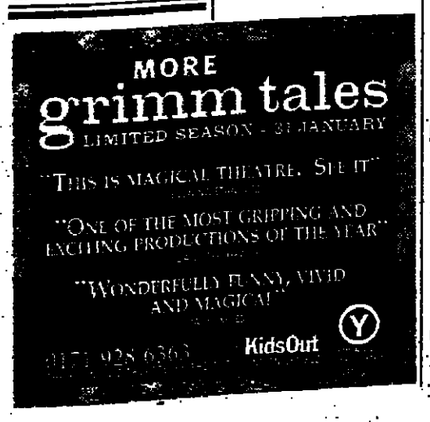
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Jane Benham Hay's *England and Italy* (1859), rediscovered by Jan Marsh and Pamela Gerrish Nunn to form an important part of the show they have put together for Manchester City Art Galleries

Respect for a spurned sisterhood

Richard Cork on Manchester's admirable attempt to give Pre-Raphaelite women artists their due

In the blinkered view of its founding members, the Pre-Raphaelite movement had no room for women artists. The young rebels who banded together in 1848 were all male, and underlined their gender by calling themselves a brotherhood. They may have worshipped women obsessively, but Pre-Raphaelite men were less enthusiastic if the female muse wanted to become a practitioner.

This reluctance to acknowledge any female contribution has distorted our understanding of the Pre-Raphaelite achievement. When the Tate Gallery mounted its hugely popular survey of the movement in 1984, only one woman was included: the tragically short-lived Elizabeth Siddal. And her three small works were overshadowed by the fact that she married Dante Gabriel Rossetti and served as a blanched model for paintings as celebrated as Millais' *Ophelia*. Even today, we know Siddal best as the listless, doomed figure singing as she drowns in the flower-strewn brook. Like so many women in Pre-Raphaelite pictures, she enacts the role of the passive, infinitely desired and yet unattainable victim. It is an irritating stereotype, ripe for revision.

And now, on the eve of the movement's 150th anniversary, Manchester City Art Galleries has produced a timely corrective. No fewer than 20 Pre-Raphaelite women artists are brought together, represented for the most part by images never publicly displayed during the present century.

The show's zealous organisers, Jan Marsh and Pamela Gerrish Nunn, have made some remarkable discoveries. The most unexpected is a painting called *England and Italy* by Jane Benham Hay, an ironmonger's daughter who won considerable success at Royal Academy exhibitions. Like so many of the women on view here, she was soon forgotten. Nobody knows when or where she died. But it was probably in Italy, the country she settled in after espousing the cause of Italian independence.

This is the theme of the newly found canvas, missing ever since it was first displayed at the Academy in 1859. Painted only a year before Garibaldi was installed in Italy as the hero of unification, it shows two boys standing together in the Val d'Arno. One, blond and English, rests a hand on the shoulder of his dark-haired Italian companion. The placid elegance of the well-dressed English boy is contrasted with the frowning restlessness of his barefoot friend. And the heap of stones and earth in front of them may be intended to reflect Italy's fragmented, perilous state. But it is not a doggedly symbolic picture. Benham Hay handles the sunlit landscape with a realist's precision, and her sympathetic portrayal of the boys deserves to be ranked with Winslow Homer's paintings of children in rural America.

Benham Hay and her equally progressive friends, Anna Mary Howitt and Barbara Leigh Smith, were determined to help each other to attain the independence enjoyed by men. "What schemes of life have we not worked out whilst we have been together!" exclaimed Howitt, describing the three women as the "germ of a beautiful sisterhood in Art, of which we have all dreamed long".

Their task was far from easy. The strength of their feminist convictions was pitted, not only against patronising masculine prejudice in general, but the obstacles thrown up by art education in particular. Female students were steered towards embroidery and illustration by teachers who assumed that the decorative arts were appropriate for young women destined to marry and look after children.

Even the students resolute enough to insist on using oil and marble found themselves barred from the life class. Without access to the nude model, they had difficulty in mastering figure drawing, then regarded as the indispensable foundation of all the most ambitious works of art. As for travelling, in order to scrutinise the finest examples of European painting and sculpture, it was regarded as a hazardous enterprise best left to men alone.

No wonder the Pre-Raphaelite women sought solidarity in a sisterhood. Mutual support would help to protect them, but even the militant Howitt could not shield herself from the debilitating onslaught of professional male opinion. When her painting of Boadicea was rejected by the Royal Academy and crushingly criticised by the influential John Ruskin, she suffered a mental breakdown. After destroying her work and jettisoning all hope of further esteem, Howitt henceforth devoted herself to spiritualism. Only a sensitive pencil drawing of Elizabeth Siddal, wearing iris flowers in her hair, represents Howitt's lost oeuvre in this survey.

But Leigh Smith, the other "sister", has four exhibits, and her unusually large watercolour panorama of Ventnor on the Isle of Wight is outstanding. She approaches the coastal scene with the same realist hunger that Benham Hay displayed in England and Italy. The Ventnor picture, however, carries a far greater freight of detail. Like all the finest Pre-Raphaelite landscapes, it has an almost microscopic intensity, and yet the overall luminosity of the limpid sea and sky is evoked without a trace of pedantic excess.

Leigh Smith was a doughty campaigner for women's rights. She played a major role in the Langham Place Group, which fought for suffrage and brought about the founding of Girton College in Cambridge. Similar views were advanced by other female Pre-Raphaelites, some of whom were drawn to the movement's interest in an art based on contemporary issues.

Anna Blunden, whose Cornish watercolour of Polpeor Beach near the Lizard has a near-hallucinatory, hairsbreadth clarity, was committed to social reform. Her painting of a seamstress staring from a sweatshop window was inspired by Thomas Hood's polemical poem *The Song of the Shirt*. Cruder than the Polpeor watercolour, its uncertain command of figure painting reflects the fact that Blunden was self-taught as an artist.

But the image of a woman isolated in a room proves the most powerful motif in the exhibition. Marianne Stokes, an Austrian who married a British painter and settled in St Ives, produced an impressive canvas called *St Elizabeth of Hungary Spinning for the Poor*. Unlike Blunden's seamstress, Stokes's saint belongs to the past. The style suggests the influence of Rogier van der Weyden, but the 15th-century precision is matched by a late 19th-century feeling for simplification in a shallow space.

At first glance, the lone figure of Melody *(Musica)* painted by Kate Bunce seems more sensual and festive. Plucking a lute-like instrument, she gazes out in our direction with bold, direct eyes. A dramatic mane of ebony hair increases the sense of brazen confrontation.

But the scene reflected in the circular mirror behind turns out to be religious. She must be contemplating its significance rather than staring at the viewer. Bunce, based in Birmingham, was a devout Christian. The sophisticated interplay between the ornamental petals on the music-maker's dress, and the flowers burgeoning in a vase beyond, promotes a feeling of spiritual exaltation as well. It is a highly controlled performance.

The exhibition is not without its dull and insipid moments. By no means all these newly uncovered women are artists worth cherishing, and some do little more than echo familiar work by Pre-Raphaelite men. But there are enough impressive images on view to justify the dedicated research behind the show. From now on, nobody will be able to ignore these neglected women with such a wholesale disregard for the truth.

● Pre-Raphaelite Women Artists *at Manchester City Art Galleries (0161 236 5244) until Feb 22*

LONDON GALLERIES

■ *CUBBITT has reopened with an ambitious and perhaps more consistent programme. The first exhibition,* **We gotta get out of this place,** *is meant to function in a variety of ways. A small separate space within the main space presents a quasi-documentary video on the music scene, by Johannes Schweiger and Roland Rust. The perhaps over-elaborate but sharply striking piece by Doug Aitken of a portion of land in Namibia plays across three television monitors.*

Scrappy snapshots by Richard Wentworth document little "still lifes" of material left, abandoned, in the streets around King's Cross: a hindsight vision of an abandoned Christmas tree among one of the many photographs tacked lightly to the wall. The huge poster by Luc Tuymans on a billboard outside can be caught or just as easily passed by. The gallery space itself appears deliberately unprepossessing and functional in order to suggest that artistic life can exist as much in literature, magazine and technology as in the anticipation of physical display.
Cubbitt, 2-4 Caledonia St, King's Cross, London N1 (0171-278 8226) until Jan 4

■ A HYBRID world of merged scientific imagination is suggested by **Simon Granger**'s strange paintings of airborne birds or animals. The fully represented creatures hover illusionistically just above the painting surface in a strange shallow space. The outline is sharp and almost hard, the sickly pinks, blues and plastic greens have been rounded and highlighted to suggest a merging of flesh and feather. The eyes which reflect, very deliberately, those of a teddy bear stare out as the creatures fly forward.

The paintings have a wilful strangeness: in fact they are almost too strange, as if the invention of subject has outplayed any invention with paint. The heightened realist nature of this plastic imagery seems so tightly sealed as to hold still the breath of imagination.
Gasworks, 155 Vauxhall St, The Oval, London SE11 (0171-735 3445) until Jan 4

■ **Rineke Dijkstra** photographs free-standing figures in a straightforward and sympathetic manner. Her complicity with young people sets up a relationship, in turn, with the viewer. Her video work follows the same principle, this time to a synchronised beat. Dancers in clubs in Holland and England gyrate to music before a white wall. People dance alone, a bare-midriffed girl moves in perfect time to the beat.

The individual large colour photographs show people alone, beside the sea, the horizon line coming to just below the torso; vulnerable thin adolescents held in damp and awkward swimming costumes against the sky.
Photographers Gallery, 5 Gt Newport St, London WC2 (0171-831 1772) until Jan 10

SACHA CRADDOCK

Giles Whittell visits Los Angeles's new Getty Centre, which opens today

Gasp at the view, gulp at the art

At the gleaming new Getty Centre in Los Angeles, which opens today, you can see dozens of important artworks never exhibited before. For instance, there is the *Stammheim Missal* written for a Benedictine monastery in Hildesheim, now with its third owner in 800 years. There is David Hockney's *Pearblossom Highway*, composed of 700 small snapshots and treasured until last year by the artist. You can see a £16 million Poussin bought recently from Sudeley Castle, and most of the collection once housed in the Getty's Malibu villa.

Yet this is all beside the point. To grasp this spectacular museum's significance you have to go there and pause among the gilded Renaissance altarpieces upstairs in the North Pavilion. Then leave the pavilion, heading south, and gasp if you must. In the foreground, 200ft of blind marble rampart plunges toward a landscaped canyon. In the middle distance is Century City. Beyond that are the Hollywood Hills.

Keep going through the glowing Rembrandts of the East Pavilion and you come to a terrace with views, on a good day, of Catalina Island across 50 miles of Pacific Ocean.

Thirteen years and a billion dollars after it was first thought of, the Getty Centre not only provides an exquisite new home for an important (though patchy) art collection. It also gives the world a new perspective on America's most baffling city.

The first hint of genius is a high-tech tram that takes visitors up a long slope from an underground car park to another vast expanse of marble leading to the museum's foyer. Richard Meier, who designed it all, calls the tram a "decompression zone". Here, a rare piece of compulsory public transport brings blissful relief from the noise and smog, and reminds you that it is worth slowing down for art.

> "The Getty Centre is its own created world"

"This is just how the future was supposed to be," Kurt Andersen wrote in *The New Yorker*. "Meier's highly classicised modernism is like a *Star Trek* episode about Periclean Athens." Indeed, the Getty is a place of Roman stone opposite aluminium-clad research institutes. It has rustic grottos next to multimedia information stations.

Great pains have been taken not to let visitors get lost here in the bowels of another Louvre. No gallery is more than one remove from fresh air and a place to sit. Even so, the Getty is its own created world, and nowhere more so than in the Great Hall. Here parquet floors, stucco mouldings and rich fabrics are used to give the museum's unmatched haul of 18th-century decorative art an authentic setting.



FRED PROUSER/REUTERS

The new Getty: superbly sited overlooking Los Angeles

The effect is of walking into a period film set, and Meier hates it. A thoroughgoing Modernist, he refused to instal trimmings that clash with his starkly clean design. A French *beaux arts* expert called Thierry Despont was hired to do the job, and the two have kept the art world agog with their protracted battles.

The upper-level galleries are Meier's clearest triumph. To show off the Getty's masterpieces in the natural light in which contemporaries saw them, he has put high, sloping roofs over traditional oblong viewing areas, capping the design with computer-controlled slats under enormous skylights. As the sun moves, the slats follow. Curators last week claimed this pale, diffuse light brings paintings alive as if expensively restored.

John Walsh, the museum's suave Bostonian director, called the Getty's collection "small, specialised and spotty" when he took it over in 1983. It has since grown, thanks to a staggering $4.5 billion endowment, but Walsh admits he can never vie with Europe or New York for sheer volume. Most old pieces worth buying have been bought.

Instead he has concentrated on showing visitors a good time. In a city as self-conscious as Los Angeles a 110-acre monument to high culture in full view of the freeway-bound masses was bound to be controversial. Sure enough, it has been criticised as elitist and inaccessible.

The truth is that entrance to this palace is free bar a $5 parking fee. It's true that it sits above the city, and thank goodness. As the movie mogul David Geffen recently observed, the sprawl below scarcely deserves it.

Orchestra scores more than lovers

OPERA
Tosca
Glasgow

One advantage of reviving elderly productions is that they probably have proper decor attached — there would be no question of Scottish Opera now being able to afford the three handsomely representational sets designed by Peter Rice for Anthony Besch's 17-year-old staging of Puccini's melodrama. By today's standards it looks positively spendthrift, especially the Castel Sant'Angelo with its machine-gun emplacements, searchlights and corrugated-iron roofing.

Ah yes, this is one of the earlier updatings: 1943, with the Allied invasion of Sicily substituting for Napoleon's of Italy, and Catania replacing Marengo. King Victor Emmanuel (authentically short) and Queen Elena (authentically tall) attend the Te Deum, as does Mussolini (authentically bald). Scarpia and the Duce exchanging a significant glance at curtain-fall adds a certain *frisson*, and so does the perfectly timed entry into Sant'Andrea della Valle of the jack-booted Fascist police chief and attendant thugs.

On the whole, though, Besch's direction is sober and discreetly understated, unlike some one could mention, until the final moments that is, when even Tosca's suicidal leap is capped by spectacular pyrotechnics. Since the opera is in part about "little people" tangling with forces beyond their control, this is not inapposite.

There is one slight drawback to the revival. Ian Storey (Cavaradossi) is a serious, decent singer with ringing top notes and an expressive half-voice, but as yet an inexpressive actor. If you don't believe that he and Tosca are in the midst of a white-hot erotic affair, then the plot doesn't quite work; this pair, you feel, might have held hands in the back row of the cinema once or twice, no more. Elizabeth Byrne can't quite supply the charge on her own, but she has all the notes, mettlesome tone, and looks good in Rice's period frocks. Matthew Best's rangy, slightly stooped Scarpia has the look of a pasty-faced, thin-lipped spider — just the job — and sings strongly and with point.

What makes this more than a solid, unstarrily-cast revival is Guido Ajmone-Marsan's conducting. There is no question of his just bashing through a well-known score: familiar phrases, instrumental colour, even rests are carefully weighed and delivered by an orchestra relishing their space in the Theatre Royal's newly expanded pit.

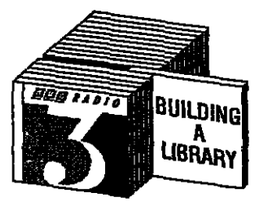
It all sounded as fresh as if they were seeing their parts for the first time when rehearsals started, reminding us that, fail-safe old warhorse of a crowd-puller though *Tosca* may be, it is faultlessly written. A good evening — and the perfect antidote to Christmas.

RODNEY MILNES

CLASSICAL CHOICE

A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

STRAUSS'S *DIE FLEDERMAUS*
Reviewed by Rodney Milnes



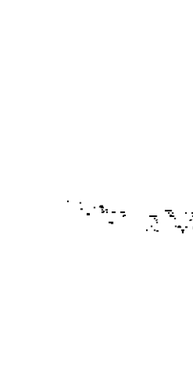
Obviously with so popular a work there are some tempting budget and mid-price bargains among the 11 CDs available. The oldest, Herbert von Karajan's first version dating from 1955 on EMI, is a classic, with Elisabeth Schwarzkopf giving one of her best recorded performances as a haughtily flirtatious Rosalinde, Nicolai Gedda in his prime as Eisenstein, such expert stylists as Rita Streich and Erich Kunz in support, and the (then) young Philharmonia playing with infectious zip. But even though it was very well remastered in 1988, this is in mono, which may put it out of court for some.

The 1995 D'Oyly Carte version on Sony, in Alistair Beaton's lively and free English translation, is also something of a special case, but a nice memento for those who enjoyed the show on stage.

The budget-price recording on Naxos may lack "name" singers, but the cast has obviously worked together and there is a real "performance" feel to the set, which is very idiomatically conducted by Johannes Wildner and stylishly played by the Czecho-Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra of Bratislava.

But most people will want a glamorously cast *Fledermaus*, and the three likeliest contenders are on DG conducted by Carlos Kleiber, EMI conducted by (and featuring) Placido Domingo, and Karajan's second recording on Decca, all in good modern sound. Domingo has a sparkling Rosalinde in Lucia Popp, a good Eisenstein (Peter Seiffert) and Agnes Baltsa and Bernd Weikl in support, but his reading is on the leisurely side for so lively a piece.

Karajan's cast is led by such stylists as Hilde Gueden and Waldemar Kmentt, sumptuously played by the **Vienna Philharmonic**, and just as sumptuously recorded. For me Carlos Kleiber is the best conductor — light-fingered, witty and fleet, with rubato perfectly judged. An excellent cast, though, is marred by a hideously unfunny falsettist as Orlofsky, which leads me to play safe and recommend the evenly cast **Karajan** Mark II **(Decca 421 046-2. 2 CD. £30.99).**



● *To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop to FREEPOST, SCO681, Forres, IV36 0BR or phone 0345 023 498; e-mail: music@the-times.co.uk*
● *Building a Library returns on Dec 27 at 9am on Radio 3 with a review of Debussy's songs*

صكذا من الأصل

Those given the devil of a job to do

The appointment of a new First Junior Treasury Counsel, Common Law (the "Treasury Devil" or "Treasury Junior") does not normally receive much publicity. The Attorney-General's decision last month to appoint Philip Sales as successor to Stephen Richards (who has been made a High Court judge) attracted press attention because Mr Sales, primarily a commercial lawyer, is a member of the former chambers of the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg. The Solicitor-General, Lord Falconer of Thoroton, explained that Mr Sales was simply the best lawyer for the job.

It is one of the most important, and difficult, jobs in the legal system. The Treasury Devil is an independent barrister afflicted by what most of us go to the Bar to avoid: being answerable to one client. He is briefed and paid (though not generously) for each advice to, or court appearance on behalf of, government departments. In theory, he is the "Attorney-General's Devil", the junior who researches what the Law Officers need to know. In practice, because the Law Officers are too busy to appear in court, the Treasury Junior has the vital task, as an independent outsider with access to senior civil servants and ministers, of assisting the Crown to comply with the law.

The Treasury Devil need not be an experienced administrative lawyer. In his Hamlyn Lectures of 1990, Lord Woolf recalled that on his appointment as Treasury Junior in 1974, such was his "ignorance of public law" that he needed to ask his predecessor, Gordon Slynn, what textbooks he should read. The appointment of good lawyers, whatever their previous area of expertise, ensures that the Treasury Devil normally has the best tunes in court.

The importance of the post makes it inconceivable that any government would today follow the example of Sir Robert Finlay who, as Attorney-General in 1905, appointed his son, a junior barrister with four years' experience, to be junior counsel to the Inland Revenue Commissioners. Finlay's decision was much criticised, and his position further undermined when, soon after, he was a passenger in the car of Sir William Anson, Warden of All Souls, who was stopped and successfully prosecuted for speeding.

The growth in public law litigation and the consequent burdens of the job make it impossible for the modern Treasury Devil to follow the example of Sir Valentine Holmes, appointed to the post in 1935. *The Dictionary of National Biography* records that he performed the task "without any abatement of his private practice" as a libel specialist. Today, the Treasury Junior needs the assistance of a panel of barristers who act for the Crown part-time as and when required.

It is hard work endeavouring to explain to courts, on a daily basis, the reasoning of government departments. As Sir John Donaldson, then Master of the Rolls, stated in his judgment in an immigration case in 1982, "the impartial observer asks Mr Simon Brown to explain how paragraph 70 of the rules is intended to operate, and Mr Brown says that he will have to take instructions".

Lord Woolf has written on the difficulties representing the Crown when Lord Denning was rewriting the law books and "setting about government departments with an irrepressible enthusiasm". Diplomacy is required. In a 1975 judgment, Lord Denning criticised Crown counsel, Roger Parker, QC, for submitting, "and I made a note of it at the time", that if the court intervened, "it would not be long before the powers of the court would be called in question". Lord Denning commented that he was prepared to accept that this was "not said seriously, but only a piece of advocate's licence".

Early in the 19th century, Charles Abbott was a Treasury Devil described by Campbell in his *Lives of the Chief Justices* as having "the most marvellous inaptitude for the functions of an advocate". He almost always lost his cases, partly because of "his power of discrimination and soundness of understanding", which enabled him to appreciate the merits of the case on both sides, and "afterwards fitted him so well for being a judge".



COUNSEL

DAVID PANNICK QC

The example of Abbott serves to remind the legal profession of what has been well understood and acted upon by recent holders of the office. All advocates have to reconcile their duties to their client with their duties to the court, and with their conscience. The Treasury Junior has a specific responsibility, as important in the age of the contingency fee as ever, to remind the Government that there are steps it cannot take, however large its parliamentary majority, and that there are occasions when it should accept legal defeat.

For the past six years, Stephen Richards has maintained the values and the independence of his office while serving a Conservative government which was not always eager to listen to legal advice. All members of the Bar will wish Mr Sales well as his successor.

● *The author is a practising barrister and Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.*

Experts have been debating juries' ability to understand fraud cases and whether to look at how they reach verdicts. **Frances Gibb** reports

Should we take a peek inside the jurors' room?

Juries are on trial. Ministers want to look again at whether juries should be scrapped for complex fraud cases. The Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, defends the jury system. But there is a case, he says, for re-examining trial by jury in complex fraud cases.

The alternative, proposed by Lord Roskill in his committee's report on fraud in 1986, suggested that such cases would be better tried by a judge, perhaps sitting with two specialist assessors. The proposal did not find favour, but the acquittal of the Maxwell brothers has reopened the debate.

Last week 250 judges, lawyers, police and government officials met to discuss the issue at a seminar chaired by the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill, and organised by the British Academy of Forensic Sciences with sponsorship from the Criminal Bar and Administrative Law Bar Associations, and the Law Society.

Lord Bingham has expressed his own views on the subject. He told a press conference last year that the jury "is and always has been regarded as one of the great safety valves that prevents the State from behaving in an oppressive way". But he added that he had favoured Lord Roskill's proposal for fraud trials, although he believed that the public was still unlikely to support it. Lord Bingham also agreed with lifting the lid a little on how juries do their work, through "serious, objective and anonymous research".

The question of whether there should be jury research — banned under the Contempt of Court Act 1981 — is linked to that of whether to keep juries for complex fraud. Until it is known how they operate, and whether they find such trials difficult, it is argued that no case can be made for their abolition. The fears of many were voiced by David Calvert-Smith, QC, who said research would "just be ammunition for those who want to get rid of juries".

> Many say research would be the death of jury trial

Clear battle lines have already been drawn. Roy Amlot, QC, chairman of the Criminal Bar Association, made a passionate defence in his paper for juries to remain. Trials by judge, or with assessors, might be more efficient, but would not be cheaper or quicker. They would always be pressed "by insistence or flattery" into thinking they could cope with all the issues. The change, he added, would be a "fundamental mistake". Complexity was no justification for removing juries from certain cases. "All complex issues can be made simple... That is the task of the judge and advocate."

There was also a danger that under trial by judge, with or without assessors, the public might not have confidence in the outcome. If an influential or political person was on trial, the panel might acquit, and rightly so. "But is it ever going to be accepted by the public at large? I cannot think of a more devastating way of undermining the appearance of justice."

Other jury supporters argued that research would kill trial. Sir John Smith, Nottingham University's Emeritus Professor of Law, believed that secrecy was essential to preserving the jury as an institution. Perhaps it was a case where ignorance was bliss. He said: "I recognise that it is highly desirable that we should know whether these assumptions [about jury behaviour] are well founded or not. But I fear that there is a price to be paid, namely the revelation that many cases are decided in consequence of material irregularities in the jury room, with consequent undermining of public confidence in jury trial.

"If we are to keep such trials, and if there is an overwhelming sentiment in favour of doing so, it is perhaps better not to know."

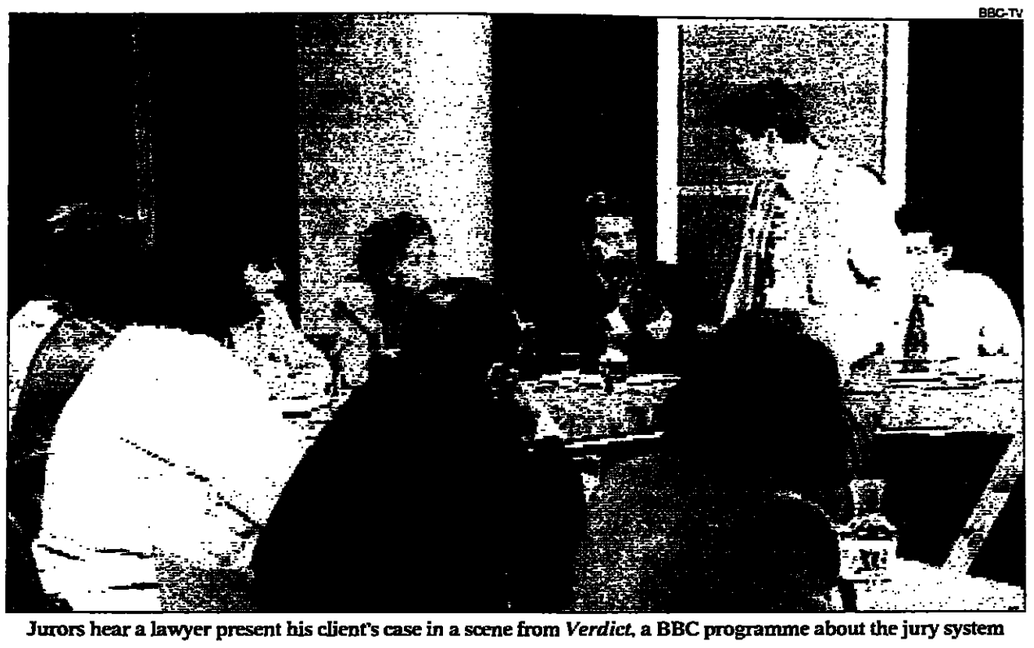
But there was also a strong view, Anthony Heaton-Armstrong, the organiser, says, that jury research could be done without destroying the institution of the jury itself. Michael Zander, QC, Professor of Law at the London School of Economics, and a fervent believer in juries, says that while such research would have to be conducted with extreme care, it could be done.

One approach would be to monitor the deliberations on audio-recording, supplemented by interviews or questionnaires. Professor Zander said that such research, including an inquiry into the impact of media publicity on juries, is going on in New Zealand.

The findings of jury research would not vindicate every verdict. There would certainly be cases where the jury had for some reason "got it wrong", in the sense that the verdict ran against the weight of the evidence; or they decided "out of prejudice or stupidity." But the jury system could withstand that. In 1981, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, later Lord Chancellor, said: "The jury system, great institution that it is, surely can stand up to properly conducted research." Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, another Lord Chancellor, took the same view.

Jury research would need legislation. But it might be an acceptable first step before dismantling juries for complex fraud cases when the evidence has not fully been heard.

BBC-TV



Jurors hear a lawyer present his client's case in a scene from *Verdict*, a BBC programme about the jury system

Helping Lord Irvine

GARRY HART is making a large financial sacrifice to help out his old friend Lord Irvine of Lairg as a special adviser in the Lord Chancellor's Department on a salary of £73,000.

But when he quits his post as a senior partner with Herbert Smith, his family will not be plunged into penury — his second wife, Valerie Davies, is a big earner in her role as head of Norton Rose's insolvency litigation department.

We want our fees

COMPETITION between the Bar and solicitors is hotting up. Angry young barristers are accusing solicitors of "cynically exploiting" their junior status by deliberately holding back payments for advocacy work in magistrates' courts.

The Bar Council's young barristers' committee has told the Bar Council that fees are being paid slowly, if at all, by "a number of firms".

What's more, the committee has complained that some chambers are reluctant to pursue fees owed to their younger tenants for fear that the guilty firms will retaliate by ceasing to give their better work to the more senior tenants in the chambers.

The Bar Council has posted a warning in its newsletter *Bar News* reminding heads of chambers that deliberately not collecting fees or not chasing them vigorously enough are disciplinary offences.

Altogether, aaah

A NEW trend among law firms this year: they are abandoning Christmas cards. Nicholas Graham & Jones have decided to put the money instead into Crisis at Christmas, and has organised a programme of activities to help the charity for the homeless, including a rota of helpers to work on the conversion of a warehouse into a Christmas shelter. Another firm, Berwin Leighton is donating its Christmas card account to Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, where it will be spent on special trolleys to move children.

And judges last week mixed with court staff and civil servants for a special carol concert organised by Allen & Overy at the Royal Courts of Justice to raise money for the Citizens Advice Bureau based in the building. About £500 was collected, and pledges have yet to come in.

OUTS

Meanwhile, at the Office for the Supervision of Solicitors, staff struggling with backlogs and rising workloads have been offered gift vouchers to close the files on as many complaints as possible in time for Christmas.

● *Jonathan Evans, the former DTI Corporate Affairs Minister, has been appointed director of insurance by the London office of Eversheds. Before his time in government, he was managing partner in the law firm Leo Abse & Cohen.*

Profitable gap

LONDON firms often open regional offices. But Thomas Eggar Verrall Bowles, a West Sussex law firm, is bucking the trend and opening a branch of Thesis, its investment advice arm, in London.

Anthony Wands, Thesis's managing director and chief investment officer, sees a gap in the market advising private investors.

Netting business

A LAWYER is setting up his own Internet law practice.

Richard Kemp, a specialist in information technology and intellectual property law, has set up Kemp & Co to "capitalise on the huge growth in demand for tailored advice on computer-related, information and communications law".

SCRIVENOR



Lester: human rights award

Rights winners

LORD LESTER of Herne Hill, QC, was last week announced Human Rights Lawyer of 1997. The award, organised by Liberty in association with the *Law Society Gazette*, was made to Lord Lester for his role in pressing for human rights legislation — an ambition realised this year with the Human Rights Bill.

A second honour, the Human Rights Award, went to Stonewall, the gay and lesbian pressure group, for advances in rights for homosexuals.

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Christmas is a natural 'pause' to contemplate the direction your career will take in the New Year. Is partnership really what you aspire to? Are there more interesting and fulfilling roles in-house? Should you look at the options available to you? More often than not candidates are surprised by the variety of opportunities which exist in banking/finance. If you would welcome the chance to talk to us on a fact finding basis we will be delighted to give you constructive career advice.

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US investment bank with pre-eminent reputation seeks lawyer with between 3 and 6 years' finance experience for a team of lawyers and bankers. Remuneration will be exceptional with all the usual banking benefits. A pro-active and commercial approach is essential. (Ref.21183)

IT — **TO £70,000**

This national firm has had the foresight to make IT/communications one of its lead departments, with the aim of becoming the number one player in this field. As part of this strategy, the London office seeks a 4-7 year non-contentious IT lawyer to handle a broad range of work. In addition to sophisticated technical skills you will need a sound business development ability to help the group achieve its goal. (Ref.21284)

CORPORATE — **£CITY+10-20%**

One of the City's most profitable medium-sized law firms, committed to attracting and retaining lawyers of the highest calibre, seeks 0-4 year corporate finance and commercial specialists. Direct client responsibility and close involvement with business decisions, as well as devising legal solutions, are actively encouraged. Clear openings in the group and continued growth mean career progression prospects are genuine. (Ref.13116)

DERIVATIVES CAP MKTS — **TO £100,000+BENS**

International finance house seeks general capital markets or derivatives lawyers at all levels to handle a wide range of products. Working closely in integrated teams with bankers, this is an ideal opportunity for a generalist looking to specialise or a specialist who wants greater involvement in a relaxed and genial front office team. (Ref.18316)

INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS — **£US RATES**

Leading projects firm with an excellent network of offices across the US and Europe seeks additional lawyers for its London operation. With high value projects of immense scale and complexity, further support is required and assistants will be given real responsibility. You must be committed: in return the firm offers a quality environment where your contribution counts. (Ref.17250)

INTERNATIONAL INSOLVENCY — **TO £50,000**

Leading international firm, whose progress is envied by its peers, seeks high achieving insolvency lawyers with up to 4 years' experience to work in a cohesive and fully integrated banking department. This is an international role requiring involvement in major, complex corporate recoveries stretching around the globe. (Ref. 20926)

JUNIOR EMPLOYMENT — **TO £42,000**

Employment team at progressive London practice is gaining increasing market share. Offering expertise in contentious and non-contentious areas, the team has been involved in very high profile matters and the steady flow of new instructions has created the need for talented assistance, one at the 2-3 year level and possibly another at NQ level. You will combine demonstrable enthusiasm for this type of work and natural client skills. (Ref.19835)

NQ FEB/MAR 98 - WHERE NEXT? — **£TOP RATES**

Qualifying next Spring and feeling unsettled about your future? Come and talk to us confidentially about the many openings for NQs at top firms in all areas, particularly banking, corporate, IT, tax and property. Take advantage of our insight into the culture, client base and working environments at different firms to help you make the right decision at this vital juncture in your career. (Ref.21288)

For further information on these, and the many other vacancies registered with us, please contact **Andy Golding** or **Yvonne Smyth** (both qualified lawyers) on **0171-523 3838** (01727-866670 evenings/weekends). For in-house vacancies please contact **Lisa Owens** or **Yasmin Phillips** on **0171-523 3822** (0171-642 5237 evenings/weekends) or write to us at **ZMB**, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax 0171-523 3839. E-mail andyg@zmb.co.uk

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PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY — *To £40,000*

If you want to be an insurance lawyer, this is the place to do it. As well as being one of the most progressive firms in the City, this well-known medium-sized practice has an outstanding insurance team and is looking for professional indemnity lawyers with 2-3 years' pqe to work on behalf of Lloyd's. Ref: T25285

PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT — *To £Various*

Join the growing ranks of lawyers who choose to take a back seat while still enjoying City life and pay as a professional support lawyer at this top 10 firm. If you have 2+ years' pqe in banking and capital markets, pensions and employment, corporate finance, or projects, this could be perfect. Ref: T22442

CORPORATE INSURANCE — *To £Partnership*

The London office of this leading national firm is the place to come if you want to make partner, as it is actively on the lookout for insurance lawyers with partnership potential. You will have 3+ years' pqe and experience of corporate finance and insurance work, ideally with Lloyd's. Ref: T35441

CORPORATE — *Moscow To £Partnership*

If you feel your career is getting into a rut, then this is the kind of move that could reinvigorate you. This very high-profile international legal practice will pay a senior corporate lawyer very well to head its corporate practice in the fascinating city of Moscow. Foreign qualifieds welcome. Ref: T44869

CORPORATE — *To £60,000*

You will immediately take responsibility for some very high quality corporate work at the London office of this top Scottish firm, which is becoming renowned for its involvement in many high-profile matters. A lawyer with 1-5 years' good quality pqe could gain invaluable experience here. Ref: T28638

IP LITIGATION — *To £35,000*

Intellectual property is a specialisation that is made for niche firms, and the success of this well-known London practice proves it. You will have great freedom to develop your interests in a wide range of IP work, especially if you are a litigator with 5+ or 2-3 years' pqe. Includes some licensing. Ref: T24371

CAP. MARKETS/PROJECT FINANCE — *To £100,000*

If you join the London office of this major US firm as it moves into a major expansion phase, you will reap some very substantial benefits, including eventual partnership. A super move if you are a capital markets or corporate lawyer with c.5 years' pqe or a project finance lawyer with 3-5 years' pqe. Ref: T23616

EMPLOYMENT — *To £50,000*

If you consider yourself still young and groovy and don't want the law to squeeze that out of you, then this well-known London firm is the one for you. Renowned for its youthful staff and almost revolutionary approach to them, it's a great place for an employment lawyer with 0-3 years' pqe. Ref: T45642

REINSURANCE — *To £80,000*

Move into the big league as a reinsurance litigator at the London office of this major national firm. You will be concentrating on big ticket cases mainly involving the Lloyd's market. This is an important and fast-growing part of the firm's practice, so you will be well-rewarded for your expertise. Ref: T65

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION — *To £50,000*

Even in a market that is buoyant right now, this headline-making top 10 City firm is doing noticeably well. The good atmosphere this engenders and the top pay it rewards its staff with make this a super move for a commercial litigator with 3-4 years' pqe, a nice personality and good academics. Ref: T45455

CORPORATE TAX — *To £70,000*

There are seriously good partnership prospects at this top 10 City firm for corporate tax lawyers with 0-5 years' pqe. You will be made up early if you can work on cutting edge matters and have a pleasant personality to match the rest of the department. Secondments to New York possible. Ref: T30212

PROJECT FINANCE — *To £120,000*

When you work for the best, you have every right to expect the best, both in terms of work and pay. At the London office of this top 5 US firm, you will get just that and even more than you expected, including marvellous responsibility and travel, if you have 2-4 years' project finance pqe. Ref: T24056

CONTENTIOUS IP — *To £75,000*

You will immediately take on a senior role as an IP litigator in the London office of this leading national firm. Partnership is very much on the agenda if you can show 5-7 years' pqe at a City firm, as well as patents knowledge and trial experience. A science background is preferable but not crucial. Ref: T26463

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY — *To £62,000*

You will enjoy unrivalled training and career development at this top 10 City firm if you can show 0-4 years' pqe at a good property practice. In addition, your work will be surprisingly varied, while you will be given a level of client contact and responsibility that will really help your career. Ref: T6594

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For further information, in complete confidence, please contact **Nick Shilton, Greg Abrahams** or **Tim Marshall** (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-405 6062 (0181-567 3952 or 0171-435 4663 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Dougall Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394.

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FEBRUARY/MARCH 98 QUALIFIERS

Should I stay or should I go - now?

You may not be sure whether to stay at your firm. You may not be sure which area to qualify into. Looking for a training contract was years ago and firms' profiles have changed radically in that time.

If you are looking for professional advice – to be treated the way you treat your clients – you must speak to Quarry Dougall.

We are the largest and most succesful legal recruitment consultancy, acting for nearly every Top 100 firm as well as the US firms, and we have offices or associates in Australia, New York, Canada and Hong Kong. We are all qualified lawyers.

We understand what you are going through as we have been there. Our backgrounds, our contacts and our experience are just three of the reasons why you should use us. Here are some more:-

FINANCE — *US Firm*

Even by the standards of US firms in London, this top west coast practice offers English lawyers outlandishly good salaries, the highest quality work, and genuinely reasonable hours. A great opportunity for qualifying finance or corporate lawyers. Ref: TQ17884

IP/IT

This firm seeks NQ lawyers with experience in litigation based IP and/or IT work – you do not have to have a science background but you have to want to work for premier clients in a team well known for their social nature. A fantastic opportunity to move on and move up. Ref: TQ26047

CORPORATE

If you are looking for a firm which is interesting and dynamic and wants its corporate lawyers to enjoy their work then look no further than this medium sized City practice. They are consistently being joined by likeminded lawyers. Ref: TQ28989

EMPLOYMENT

Renowned medium size City practice with outstanding employment reputation seeks NQ lawyers to join full service employment department where up to 80% of the work is stand alone. Ref: TQ29795

QUARRY DOUGALL

For further information in complete confidence, please contact **Sarah David** (ex Slaughter and May) or **Nick Shilton** (ex Linklaters & Paines) on 0171-405 6062 (0181-789 7704 or 0171-385 7017 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Dougall Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394.

Let's Talk Turkey

LIPSON LLOYD-JONES LEGAL RECRUITMENT

SOUTH

Litigation — **£Partner**
City: Multinational firm seeks senior lawyer to head up litigation team. A client following in insolvency, shipping or insurance is essential for this role.

Banking — **£Partner**
City: Well-known firm with superb int connections seeks senior assistant/ partner to act for domestic and int banks/merchant banks/insurance co's.

Asset Finance/PFI — **to £Partner**
City: Lawyers NQ-Partner level with exp in areas such as structured finance, banking and asset finance sought by busy practice with international network.

IP/IT — **to £45K**
City: Thriving MDP has new role for lawyer 1-3PQE to deal with copyright/ data protection/trademarks/patents/ confidentiality/software development.

Trade Marks — **to £50K**
City: Large, entrepreneurial practice seeks lawyer 3-5PQE with City/ equivalent background to handle work in respect of agency/lawyer activities.

Employment — **to £55K**
City: Dynamic practice seeks advocate with 2-5PQE to specialise in contentious employment work. Unique opportunity to handle tribunal work.

Property Litt — **c £55K**
City: Highly select-ish firm has role for litigator 1-2PQE where work consists of 75% property litigation and 25% commercial property work.

Construction — **to £45K**
West Ends: Major firm has several new positions 1-4PQE for contentious &/ or non-contentious work. Engineering background an advantage for one role.

Commercial Property — **c £45K**
West Ends: Superb property practice with top client base seeks lawyer 2-5PQE to handle commercial conveyancing and secured lending.

NB March 1998 — **c £31K**
Many of our clients in London, Leeds, Birmingham, Manchester and the West Country, have identified their future requirements with opportunities in the following areas: Corporate Banking, Corporate, Company/Commercial, Multimedia, Pensions, Insolvency, Construction, Commercial Property, Finance Litigation, Business Tax, Employee Benefits and Private Client.

NORTH

Co/Co — **to £35K**
Warrington: Well established medium sized practice seeks junior solicitor up to 2PQE to handle a genuine mix of commercial/corporate work.

Co/Co — **to £36K**
Bradford: Mid. sized, well respected firm with excellent client base seeks commercial solicitor 1-3PQE with good exp wishing to develop in this field.

Defendant PI — **£Competitive**
Warrington: Opportunity for Legal Executive 2-3PQE with defendant experience to join busy dept to assist on high volume quality caseload.

Employment — **£Excellent**
Nottingham: National firm offers a unique opportunity for lawyer up to 4PQE to head a new dept. Following not required, as workload guaranteed.

Construction — **to £40K**
Warrington: Highly respected leader in its field requires an experienced solicitor with at least 5PQE to handle a mix of non-contentious/technology work.

Commercial Lit — **c £36K**
North West: Unique opportunity for solicitor 3-4PQE to join firm at senior level to undertake mixed caseload. Quality firm with top reputation.

Property — **to £40K**
Sheffield: Profitable group within top firm seeks 2 technically accomplished solicitors in NQ-5PQE bracket. Case-load of mainly development work.

Debt Collection — **£Excellent**
Bradford: National practice offers opportunity to spearhead existing dept. Management background and 5PQE+ in debt/insolvency litigation required.

Compliance — **£Outstanding**
Leeds: Fabulous opportunity to join national practice to lead a new dept handling compliance and regulatory work. Local contacts preferred.

Property — **to £45K**
Manchester: Due to expansion, a senior assistant 3-5PQE is sought by well-known city centre firm to handle mixed commercial property caseload.

Private Client — **to £Partner**
NE South: Prestigious firm seeks lawyer 4PQE + with loyal following and exp of probate, tax planning and trusts. Local knowledge and marketing skills useful.

IN-HOUSE

Senior Counsel — **to £75K+bens**
City: Lawyer to 10PQE with corporate finance/corporate capital experience sought to manage high profile team. City training essential.

Publishing — **to £45K**
Cheshire: Expanding co seeks dynamic lawyer NQ-3PQE to handle commercial work including defamation, advertising, contracts and copyright.

Commercial — **£City Rates**
E Midlands: Information services co seeks solicitor 4-7PQE with commercial flair to join legal dept. Must have exp of drafting IT/software contracts.

Bilingual — **to £45K+bens**
London: Lawyer 2-4PQE with IP/IT exp sought by group with international connections to join electronics/telecoms dept. City background not essential.

Commercial — **£Excellent+bens**
Wests: Leading financial services group seeks solicitor c2PQE to handle capital markets work for its treasury division, plus a range of co/co work.

Corp/Commercial — **to £45K+bens**
City: Lawyers 2-3PQE currently in a City law firm or in-house sought to join young ground breaking team advising on key corporate/financial transactions.

Corporate — **c £40K+bens**
NE Consortium: Five person team seeks heavyweight corporate lawyer 3PQE+ to handle work with an emphasis on corporate reorganisations and M&As.

Private Client — **c £35K+bens**
City: Unusual opportunity. Large accountancy firm seeks private client lawyer 1-3PQE to handle a range of work including trusts, probate and tax.

Corporate — **c £45K+bens**
City: Famous inst. seeks outgoing City trained lawyers for regulatory roles in a team handling investor protection to deal with brokers, bankers & law firms.

Shipping — **to £35K**
NE South: Leading association seeks shipping litigator NQ-3PQE to join team of young lawyers. Must have relevant exp and ideally a north east connection.

Commercial — **c £35K+bens**
W Yorks: Insurance law unit of large financial services co seeks lawyer 2-3PQE with in-house exp. Knowledge of marketing & insurance law desirable.

Our offices will be open throughout the Christmas break when our consultants will be happy to discuss your career in confidence.

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Deborah Knowles
Lucy Boyd
Marian Lloyd-Jones
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Devonshire House
38 York Place
Leeds LS1 2ED
Tel: 0113 243 3190/Fax: 9283

Andrea Oliver
Northern Assurance Buildings
Albert Square
Manchester M2 4DN
Tel: 0161 288 8822/Fax: 2880

Seeking a Better Stable this Christmas?

In-House

SENIOR CO/COM — **£45-60k**
M4 Corridor - Finance co. seeks 4yr+ co/com lawyer to join legal team in senior role. Excellent career prospects. Financial services sector experience a bonus.

SURREY — **Dynamic US Co.**
Key roles with diversified US multinational: (1) Corp/com lawyer 2-4 yrs pqe, proactive, adaptable with international outlook. (2) Trade/Structured Finance lawyer 2-6yrs pqe, varied frontline role with emerging markets focus. Languages a pins.

FTSE 100 CO. — **c3-4yrs**
Active Blue Chip seeks a bright, co/com lawyer with hands-on deal-doing experience to handle strategic JV's and large international commercial deals. Travel.

CORPORATE — **4-6yrs**
Bright, adaptable corp lawyer, preferably with some broader commercial experience to join highly regarded legal team at leading multinational. Varied, top quality workload.

CO/COM/INSURANCE — **2-6 yrs**
Leading insurance company seeks bright commercially minded lawyer to join small team, handling a broad company/ commercial workload with an international bias. European languages advantageous.

LEGAL PUBLISHING — **£25-40k**
Top publishing co. seeks (1) Assistant Editor to commission, write & edit co/com articles- suit 1-4yr pqe City trained lwr (c£25-30k). (2) Editor for practical transactions guides- suit 6yr+ co/com lawyer or information officer - could be part time (to £40k).

COM PROPERTY — **6 Month Contract**
Prestigious, household name retail co. seeks a high calibre, com prop specialist with 4yrs+ pqe to join small, well regarded team Wide variety of quality work. Initial contract may well be extended. Would suit City trained lawyer available shortly. To c£48k.

London

EMPLOYMENT — **1-4yrs**
Popular, much envied small City firm, with strong international connections seeks a bright solicitor to undertake a predominantly non-contentious workload. Would suit lawyer disenchanted with larger City firm.

CO/COMM. — **NQ-3yrs**
This dynamic US firm offers top notch corporate/commercial work, the highest salaries in town and a real chance to make a mark. Personality is vital in this small team which has exciting plans for the future.

INSURANCE LIT. — **NQ-4yrs**
Flourishing and respected medium sized City firm offers a broad range of insurance litigation which includes Lloyds work, prof. indemnity, product liability and reinsurance dispute work. Good academics and training at reputable firm desirable.

IT — **1-3yrs**
The small, thriving IT team of this highly regarded City firm continues to grow and now seeks an ambitious and outgoing assistant to handle a wide range of non-contentious work for an excellent client base.

CO/COMM. — **3-6yrs**
Up and coming corporate team of medium-sized Holborn firm seeks bright lawyer. Terrific potential in a firm which has attracted increasing numbers of disillusioned City lawyers seeking to combine quality of life with a quality caseload.

INSURANCE LIT. Ptnr/Ptnr Designate
London firm with superb insurance reputation seeks senior litigator (6-8yrs pqe) with good practice development skills for broad prof. indemnity/reinsurance caseload.

SHIPPING LIT — **3-5yrs**
Popular medium-sized firm offers excellent opportunity to 3-5yr pqe shipping litigator to handle high calibre caseload in well regarded and friendly team.

The Regions

Are you are looking for a position which combines good quality of life with a high standard of work? We are instructed on a wide range of positions which would ideally suit City lawyers seeking an alternative to the stress of London life.

EAST MIDLANDS — **Employment**
Leading firm seeks additional employment lawyer (2-6 yrs pqe) with contentious and non-contentious experience to join its thriving team. Excellent prospects and work environment.

BIRMINGHAM — **Banking**
Outstanding opportunity with major firm for a bright lawyer (2-4 yrs pqe) with a solid track record in banking. Ideal opportunity to combine 'City' quality work with quality of life.

LEEDS/MANCHESTER — **Corp. Tax**
Superb opportunities exist within the Corporate Tax dept of this progressive but friendly major regional player for 1-5 yr pqe lawyers looking for exceptional career prospects & highly attractive remuneration.

BRISTOL/READING — **NQ-2 yrs**
We currently have some highly unusual vacancies for top calibre young solicitors with strong commercial training who are interested in working in a more progressive business environment.

BRISTOL — **Employ't Know-How**
Rare opportunity for a 2-3 yr pqe Employment lawyer to move over to a part-time (3 days per week) Know -How role. Attractive remuneration guaranteed.

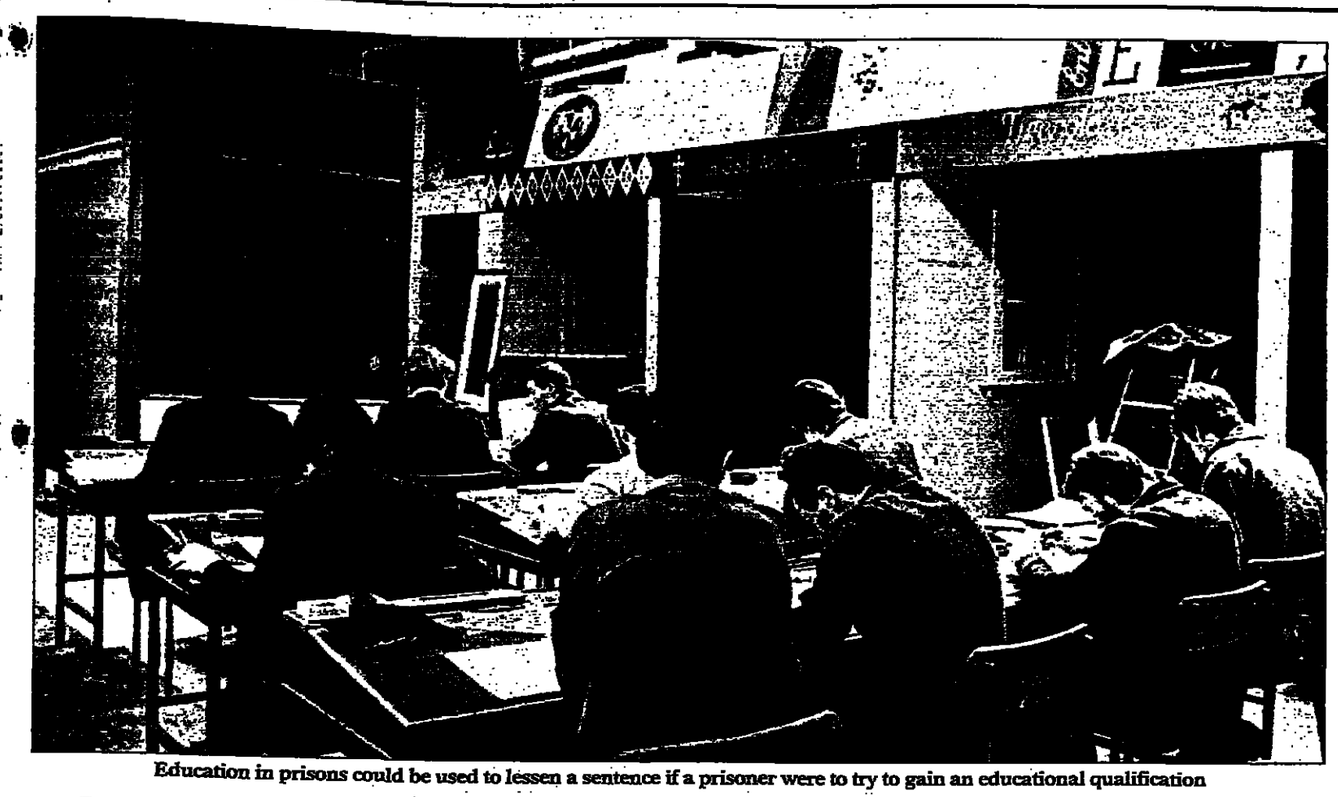
Please call Sophie Brooks (London), Struan Hall (In-House) or Ita McElhatton (Regions) on 0171 430 1711, or write to Graham Gill & Young, 46 Kingsway, London WC2B 6EN. Fax: 0171 831 4186.

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Education in prisons could be used to lessen a sentence if a prisoner were to try to gain an educational qualification

Can we eliminate evil?

Education should serve a rehabilitative purpose for the inmates of prisons, says **Joel Parkes**

I work in police stations and represent people who have been arrested. Mostly those arrests lead to interviews on tape-recorders, and the arrested person has a right to have a solicitor or a legal representative present to advise him or her on the evidence, and what the best course of action is when it comes to answering questions.

Most criminals are simple and non-threatening when it comes to a discussion with the only friendly face they have seen in custody. But I do encounter evil, and solicitors or legal representatives who tell you that they have not are either not getting much work or are not perceptive.

Many people see prison as the last stop for the criminal on the train of justice. The criminal has been arrested, represented in court, had a chance to put his or her side of the story to a judge and jury, been found guilty and will now face the punishment that society has deemed necessary.

Criminologists and legal academics all agree that sentencing has more than one purpose. It should reflect society's revulsion of the crime committed and it should help to protect society from a person who is dangerous. The act of putting people in prison should also be guided by a rehabilitative purpose. To turn someone out on the street after years of harsh social conditioning and unhealthy peer pressure without adequate rehabilitation cannot be a sensible way in which to address the social root of crime.

But that is what the British penal system does. The nature of the educational services offered in the prison system today can only be described as shambolic. Of the estimated prison population of 56,000 in the UK, there are only some 250 inmates studying for a degree qualification. They are forced to take their degrees via the Open University. This is because the prison system of education is set up so that there is no standardisation of services or educational materials from one prison to the next, and the Open University is the best option for the inmate who gets moved between prisons during a custodial sentence.

There are educational services at prisons that provide basic skills guided by the national core curriculum, but their implementation is left to the prison governors. How can that possibly accommodate the inmate who, perhaps for the first time in his life, is on the road to self-improvement through study, only to have his course cut short when he is transferred to a prison where the programme does not exist?

If we are so concerned with preventing and eliminating crime, why have we not gone to the root of the problem? Why have there been no steps taken to re-educate prisoners? Is the concept of rehabilitation looked on as a liberalist anathema? Can anyone seriously believe that prisons, referred to as the "University of Crime" by many police officers, are places that teach proper social values?

But what of the prisoner who does not want to accept education in prison, even if offered? One possible solution is offering the prisoner the option of studying for an educational qualification as a condition for a lesser sentence. The educational qualifications could be as varied as the prisoners, from lessons in basic literacy and numeracy skills to university-level degree qualifications.

Lord Woolf, the Master of the Rolls, is receptive to this idea. "I am strongly in favour of providing as much education as is practicable in prisons," he says. "I would support prisoners being able to earn remission by educational achievements."

For this to work, there must be an acceptance of the validity of social intervention. Social intervention is a broad concept, but it is a key component of the ever-developing world of criminological theory.

We can either lock prisoners up and forget about them or we can make the real effort to change them when we have them in custody. Almost all prisoners eventually get back on the streets. Is it really such a hard decision? If they were given a chance to be educated I think that they would be less likely to reoffend. Such a move seems to make perfect sense.

Solicitors go for the hard sell

Frances Gibb attends a seminar explaining how lawyers can best compete for work

Solicitors are now salesmen. They have to be, to survive. But how, and where, should they sell their wares? Last week the American Chamber of Commerce held a top-level seminar for 80 lawyers from City and American law firms to debate how they can best compete for work. Joe Macrae, of ZMB, the legal recruitment consultants who sponsored the event, said: "The market is now fiercely competitive."

American law firms are thrusting into the City of London, a crucial gateway to Europe. And City law firms are seeking to expand, probably through mergers, in the States.

Law firms still lag behind accountants in how they market themselves. But they have changed their approach dramatically from ten years ago. Dr Irwin Stelzer, of Irwin Stelzer Associates, said that solicitors had evolved from the idea that they were professionals "who did not sell and did not carry a business card through to 'we do have a brochure', and from there to taking part in beauty contests" (to pitch for work).

But marketing was still bigger business in America, where law firms spent some 3 per cent of gross fees on it compared with 1.5 per cent among City law firms.

Buyers of legal services, though, hold the key; and for the corporate/commercial law firms, the buyers — or clients — are other lawyers, in-house lawyers in large companies. Deanna Bates, head of business and legal affairs at BSkyB (in which News International, owner of *The Times*, has a 40 per cent stake), told the conference that in-house lawyers increasingly handled more business themselves. So when they went outside, they wanted lawyers for expertise such as "litigation, specialist competition law advice".

BSkyB did not go particularly to "media" firms, she said; rather it sought the expertise of an individual. Her checklist of what to look for in a firm or lawyer were: accessibility ("I speak to Charles Plant/Herbert Smith every week); ability to do the job quickly; a "can-do" attitude — "we want to know how to do the deal, not whether we should do it"; ability to present the legal advice to in-house management convincingly; and finally the "guts to stand up to the client" — "We don't want someone who says — 'a hostile takeover bid for the *BBC*? What a good idea!' "

> 'I would rather pay double and have the job well done'

Fees, which are increasingly trimmed to meet client demands, were not a deterrent if the ability was there, she added. "I'd rather pay double and have the job well done, than half and have to finish it myself."

Above all, it was "brainpower" they sought, with the ability to think strategically in new areas.

On the downside, lawyers scored no marks for laziness, bluffing, refusing to admit previous advice was wrong, charging for "phantom paralegals" or bringing along trainees who took notes which did not resemble what happened at the meeting.

From the law firms' perspective, Anthony Williams, managing partner-elect of Clifford Chance, confirmed that the boot was on the client's foot. "We must look at things from the client's perspective and not our own. And we must also look at the way a product is delivered. Clients say they want commercial, proactive, hands-on advice." They did not want a 20-page treatise which left them asking "... and?"

Above all, the approach had to be tailored to the client, he said. Some wanted to be involved; others left the lawyers to get on with it. "We must provide a package for the client suitable for the way they operate and look more intelligently at how we price our services." The key, he added, was understanding the client's own business. Lawyers should visit their clients — "How you can form a relationship with people you only ever see in your office surprises me."

It is all a far cry from the high street law firm. Yet one common thread emerged: the need to put the client first or, in the jargon, "client care". More and more firms are doing "client audits".

Julia Chain, managing partner of Garrett's, the legal arm of Arthur Andersen, said the firm had found it useful to send someone (not the partner doing the work) out to the client to make sure they were satisfied. Likewise, John Shenefield, chairman of Morgan Lewis and Bockius, a 900-lawyer American firm rapidly expanding worldwide, said feedback was regularly sought from clients.

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Loss not in parties' contemplation

Total Transport Corporation v Arcadia Petroleum Ltd

Before Lord Justice Staughton, Lord Justice Auld and Sir John Balcombe

[Judgment November 18]

A clause in a charterparty providing for "loss suffered by charterers due to failure to comply fully with charterers' voyage instructions" to be the responsibility of the shipowner did not entitle the charterers to recover loss which was not in the reasonable contemplation of the parties.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment in dismissing an appeal brought by the charterers, Arcadia Petroleum Ltd, against the decision of Mr Justice Rix ([1996] 2 Lloyd's Rep 408) to set aside an arbitration award on an Asbatankvoy form of $681,934.05 plus interest at 5.5 per cent awarded to Total Transport Corporation, the disponent owners of the ship, Eurus.

Mr Simon Rainey for the charterers; Mr Richard Jacobs for the shipowners.

LORD JUSTICE STAUGHTON said that clause 36 was the critical clause and provided: "Owners shall be responsible for any time, costs delays or loss suffered by charterers due to failure to comply fully with charterers' voyage instructions." There then followed a deletion and the clause continued: "Provided such instructions are in accordance with the charterparty and custom of the trade specified *in voyage orders*".

The charterers' case was that the owners, in breach of contract, did not comply with the instructions which the charterers gave. Their loss was claimed either as damages or as money payable under a contractual indemnity.

The claim for damages failed but the one for indemnity succeeded. The claim for damages was not renewed either before Mr Justice Rix or the Court of Appeal.

On January 23, 1992 the charterers nominated the Eurus to lift a cargo under a supply contract with the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation for loading between January 29 and 31, with an estimated time of arrival of January 31 at the port of Forcados.

On January 23 the Nigerian Corporation announced their prices for February which were lower than the January prices and so it was in the interest of the charterers that the vessel should *not complete loading before* February 1.

In the afternoon of January 31, a message reached the owners from the charterers, asking the owners to slow down *the loading in order* to ensure that the vessel received a February 1 bill of lading. There was no suggestion at that stage that the critical time was anything other than 0001hr on February 1.

The master then advised that he expected to complete loading at 0130hr on that day and he did. Neither he nor the owners had any *reason to suppose that* it was necessary to prolong the loading, if he could, until later that morning.

There was, however, a rule of the Department of Petroleum Resources in Lagos that if loading was completed prior to 8am on the first day of a new month, the bill of lading was to be dated the last day of the old month.

The rule had been in force for some eighteen or twenty years and was designed to enable the department to carry out an audit stock at the end of each month without doing so outside working hours. The supply contract between the charterers and the Nigerian Corporation was governed by Nigerian law. The charterparty, however, was governed by English law.

The arbitrators found that, if the vessel had presented herself for loading at 1100hr on January 31, then loading would have extended beyond 0800hr on February 1.

It would have then followed that the charterers would have had to pay the lower, February price. In the event, they were obliged to pay the January price, which cost them the *additional sum of $681,934.05*. Neither the charterers nor the owners knew about the 8am rule.

The arbitrators held that the existence of the 8am rule was not an effective or intervening cause of the charterers' loss and that the cause of the loss was the master's failure to comply with the charterers' instructions.

The case for the charterers was that clause 36 in its role as an indemnity clause required proof that the loss was caused by failure to obey the charterers' orders, but not that the loss should be within the reasonable contemplation of the parties.

The judge treated that part of the case as raising two questions:

1 Was clause 36 an indemnity provision?

2 If it was an indemnity provision, was the clause confined to reasonably forseeable loss?

His Lordship preferred to treat the problem as one question of interpretation of the contract: did the clause provide that the charterers could recover even if the loss suffered was not within the reasonable contemplation of the parties?

In his Lordship's judgment, it *was not the intention of the parties* to provide, by clause 36, that a particular kind of breach of contract by the owners should attract liability even for unforseeable consequences, while in the case of all other breaches of contract the ordinary rule of remoteness would apply.

His Lordship would therefore uphold the decision of Mr Justice Rix.

Lord Justice Auld agreed and Sir John Balcombe delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Clifford Chance; Holman Fenwick & Willan.

Particulars must be in indictment

Regina v Roberts and Others

Before Lord Justice Phillips, Mr *Justice Jowitt and Sir Patrick* Russell

[Judgment November 20]

It was important to set out proper *particulars of the offence or of*fences charged in the indictment itself.

In a case of conspiracy to commit criminal damage contrary to section 1(1) of the Criminal Law Act 1977, if the prosecution case was that the conspiracy embraced an aggravated form of criminal damage, it was not sufficient for the indictment to charge criminal damage simpliciter and for the prosecution to rely on the particularisation contained in an opening note circulated to the defence before the trial began.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held when allowing *appeals by Martin Stanley Rob*erts, Jonathon Taylor and Kevin Chapman and quashing their convictions, on March 21, 1997 at Lewes Crown Court (Judge Richard Brown and a jury) of conspiracy to commit criminal damage contrary to section 1(1) of the 1977 Act, on which Roberts was sentenced to six, Taylor to four and Chapman to two years imprisonment.

Mr John Aspinall, QC and Mr C. F. E. De Havas for Roberts; Mr Jeremy Gold, who did not appear at trial, for Taylor; Mr Martin Hurst for Chapman, all counsel assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals; Mr Richard Cherrill and Mr *Adrian Chaplin for the* Crown.

LORD JUSTICE PHILLIPS, giving the reserved judgment of the court, said that in late 1994 Shoreham was chosen as a port for the export of live veal calves. That trade was abhorrent to many who were concerned for animal welfare.

Roberts founded an organisation called "Campaign against live freight" known as CALF. The other appellants were committee members of that organisation.

The prosecution case was that within CALF there were some, including the appellants, who conspired to carry out a campaign of criminal damage against those involved in the export of live freight. Instances of criminal damage that had occurred were relied upon by the Crown as being the product of that conspiracy.

The appellants had attacked the form of the indictment in a number of ways, including submitting that the indictment alleged an offence of conspiracy to cause criminal damage simpliciter, not damage in one of the aggravated forms and that most of the prosecution case had been devoted to establishing a case of arson in circumstances involving at least recklessness as to endangering human life; such evidence was irrelevant to the offence charged and highly prejudicial.

It was apparent that the judge had sentenced the appellants on the basis that they had conspired to commit criminal damage, aggravated both because it took the form of arson and because it involved recklessness as to whether it would endanger life.

Section 1 of the Criminal Damage Act 1971 created a number of offences. They were: criminal damage simpliciter, criminal damage with intent to endanger life or reckless in that regard, arson, and arson with intent to endanger life or reckless in that regard.

The case that the Crown had advanced, and that the judge had permitted the Crown to advance was that the appellants had agreed that a course of conduct should be pursued that embraced all of the above offences, except criminal damage other than arson that involved risk to life.

If a single count charged a conspiracy in relation to the commission of more than one offence, each offence probably constituted an essential element of the conspir*acy so that, unless the Crown* proved that the conspiracy extended to all the offences alleged, the charge would not be made out.

It was quite plain that, as the maximum sentence was governed by that which attached to the offence that carried the longest term of imprisonment, the jury had to be satisfied that the conspiracy embraced at least that offence.

It was argued for the prosecution that the indictment should be read subject to the particularisation of the Crown's case provided in its opening note, which was *circulated to* defence counsel before the trial began.

Had the trial proceeded on the basis that the jury could only *convict if they were* satisfied that the conspiracy embraced the aggravated versions of the offence to which the opening note referred, it might have followed that deficiencies in the indictment itself were mere technicalities, which should not invalidate the verdicts.

That, however, was far from the *case and their Lordships* would in any event denigrate any trend that diluted the importance of setting out proper particulars of the offence or offences charged in the indictment itself.

The prosecution allegation that the conspiracy had embraced an aggravated form of criminal damage provided the focus of the trial. The approach of the judge was that the indictment required the jury to return a guilty verdict provided that they were satisfied that the conspiracy *embraced any form* of criminal damage.

Once that was proved, it was for him to decide whether and in what respect a conspiracy to perform an aggravated form of the offence had been made out and to sentence on the basis of that finding.

Accordingly the jury were never directed to apply their minds to the question of whether the conspiracy extended to arson or embraced a course of conduct that intended to endanger life or was reckless in that regard. The judge had arrogated to himself decisions that were of the most significance in the case.

In some cases it was better that the judge be left to assess the degree of involvement of the various *participants in a trial than that* there should be a risk of confusing the jury by a profusion of counts designed to achieve that end.

However, such an approach could not be appropriate in a conspiracy that involved different offences subject to different maximum penalties.

For those reasons the procedure adopted was fatally flawed. It would not be appropriate to uphold the verdicts on the basis that they related to a conspiracy to commit criminal damage simpliciter and to attempt to adjust the sentences wrongly imposed on the basis of guilt of the aggravated offences.

The length of trial and the issues explored at it were manifestly inappropriate for a trial on a charge of conspiracy to commit criminal damage simpliciter, whether or not it was arguable that evidence in relation to the aggravated offences could be relevant to such a charge. The convictions would be quashed.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Sussex.

Court's jurisdiction to extend time

Finnegan v Parkside Health Authority

Before Lord Justice Hirst and Lord Justice Mantell

[Judgment November 20]

Absence of good reason for delay was not sufficient reason for the court to refuse to exercise its discretion to extend time for appeal under Order 3, rule 5 of the Rules of the Supreme Court. Even where no good reason for delay was forthcoming, prejudice could be a relevant consideration.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, Linda Finnegan, from the dismissal by Judge Taylor, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division on October 14, 1996, of her application for leave to appeal out of time against the striking out for want of prosecution of her action for negligence against *Parkside Health Authority*.

Mr Richard Mawrey, QC and Mr Mark Twomey for Mrs Finnegan; Miss Fiona Neale for the health authority.

LORD JUSTICE HIRST said Mrs Finnegan's claim arose from an operation at the defendants' hospital in February 1989. The writ had been issued on February 26, 1992, two days before the expiry of the limitation period. After some preliminary steps, the case had gone to sleep until February 16, 1996, when her solicitors had served a notice of intention to proceed.

On July 12, 1996, the master had struck out the case on the defendants' application and the plaintiff had served notice of appeal 62 days later on September 12, 1996, 57 days late. Her application for leave to appeal out of time had been dismissed by Judge Taylor.

Her solicitors had given rather lame excuses for delays in August and September, but had given no explanation why the notice of appeal had not been served within the five-day limit or for anything that had gone wrong before the end of July.

The judge had considered three Court of Appeal authorities: *Costellow v Somerset County Council* ([1993] 1 All ER 952); *Revici v Prentice Hall* ([1969] 1 WLR 157) and *Savill v Southend Health Authority* ([1995] 1 WLR 1254).

He had concluded that while in *Costellow* stress was laid on the importance of prejudice, he felt bound to follow the somewhat different approach in *Revici* and *Savill* and that in the absence of any explanation of the delay during the crucial period, there was no material before the court on which it could exercise its discretion in the *plaintiff's favour, so that any* question of prejudice, even if minimal or non-existent, was immaterial.

The court had to decide whether there was a conflict between the two lines of authority.

His Lordship reviewed the authorities and referred to *Mortgage Corporation v Sandoes (The Times* December 27, 1996), decided six weeks after the instant case, in which the Court of Appeal had expressly rejected the argument that the absence of good reason was always and in itself sufficient to justify the court in refusing to exercise its discretion, and held *that the true position was that once* a party was in default it was for him to satisfy the court that discretion should none the less be exercised in his favour, for which purpose he could rely on any relevant circumstances.

In his Lordship's judgment, the starting point was Order 3, rule 5 which explicitly conferred the widest measure of discretion in applications for extension of time.

Costellow was fully in line with that philosophy and had explicitly disapproved of a rigid mechanistic approach, rejecting the contention that the application for extension should be heard first, and that dismissal was inevitable if the applicant failed to show good reason for the procedural default. *Any doubt about the strength and* breadth of the guidance given in *Costellow* had been laid to rest by *Mortgage Corporation v Sandoes*.

It was impossible to reconcile *Savill* with those two cases. The judge had been in error in entirely disregarding prejudice.

However, each application had *to be judged on its facts and* where as in the instant case there was considerable delay with no explanation of the critical period, the court would apply guidelines laid down in *Mortgage Corporation v Sandoes*, the first of which stressed that the rules were to be observed. The case would be remitted to the Queen's Bench Division for reconsideration.

Lord Justice Mantell agreed.

Solicitors: Zelin & Zelin, Beechcroft Stanleys.

Revelations to newspapers do not constitute molestation

C v C (Non-molestation order: Jurisdiction)

Before Sir Stephen Brown, President

[Judgment November 11]

Although there was no legal definition of "molestation" for the purposes of the Family Law Act 1996 there had to be some conduct which clearly harassed and *affected the applicant to such a* degree that the intervention of the court was justified.

Sir Stephen Brown, President of the Family Division, so held when dismissing the husband's application for a non-molestation order under section 42(1)(a) of the Family Law Act 1996 by which he sought to prevent his former wife from giving further information to newspaper reporters which would perpetuate the publication of articles which were offensive to him.

The judgment was delivered in chambers and is reported by leave of the judge.

Mr Richard Todd for the husband: Mr John Elvidge for the respondent.

THE PRESIDENT said that the parties had been married but had obtained a divorce in September 1997.

In October two articles detailing the former wife's complaints about her husband appeared in the press and the husband attempted to restrain the wife from providing *further information to the news*papers by applying for a non-molestation order under section 42 of the 1966 Act.

Although it was accepted that there had been no direct threat or molestation in the physical sense, nor any indirect interference by telephone or letter, he contended that her conduct in supplying newspaper reporters with revelations which resulted in the publication of the offending articles justified the making of a non-*molestation order*.

His Lordship said that, although there was no legal definition of molestation, the word implied some quite deliberate conduct which was aimed at a high degree of harassment of the other party sufficient to call for the intervention of the court.

Furthermore, it was significant that section 42 was to be found in Part IV of the 1996 Act which was concerned with the general topic of domestic violence and that section 42(5) required the court to have regard to all the circumstances including the need to secure the health, safety and wellbeing of the applicant in deciding whether to exercise its powers.

Here the conduct complained of concerned alleged revelations by the former wife of what she regarded as her former husband's misbehaviour.

This seemed to be more a misconceived endeavour to seek to impose what might be called a gagging order.

It came nowhere near molestation as envisaged by section 42 of the 1996 Act.

Solicitors: Mills & Reeve, Norwich; Bennett Taylor Tyrrell.

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Owner managers fear effect of festive break

BY RODNEY HOBSON

MANY owner managers will be taking work home this Christmas while others will be forced to close down for up to a fortnight against their wishes.

Lloyds TSB reckons that half of all small business owners have got too much to do to afford the luxury of a complete rest. They fear competitors will snatch trade if they slack.

One company in three reckons that Christmas is the most stressful period of the year. Not surprisingly, retailers are worst affected. The majority say they cannot take more than two days off.

John Spence, managing director of business banking at Lloyds TSB, sympathises: "Small businesses face extra pressures in the run-up to Christmas. With tight deadlines to meet and the prospect of not getting paid until after the new year, it's no surprise that many can't get work off their minds."

In contrast, Barclays Bank claims that about half of all companies will take a complete break between Christmas and the new year and some will shut for two weeks.

A survey of medium-sized companies found that 55 per cent believed that the Christmas holiday was getting longer and 69 per cent complained that the seasonal break had an adverse effect on their business.

Almost a quarter of firms said they would have to shut down against their wishes because their customers were closed.

☐ This year and next will be the last chance for firms to give staff retail vouchers for high street stores without incurring national insurance. The exemption is due to be ended in April 1999.

It pays to relax at Christmas

LLOYDS TSB asked Cary Cooper, Professor of Organisational Psychology at the Manchester School of Management, for advice on relaxing during the holiday.

☐ Keep a healthy balance between work and play. Taking a break makes you feel much more alert, reduces stress levels and helps you to think more clearly.

☐ Remember that your in-tray will always be full. When you realise you may never completely empty it, work will become more manageable.

☐ Concentrate on what is essential and complete less important tasks only when you really need to. Don't try to tackle everything at once.

☐ Set business goals for 1998. Deciding on your goals can help to reduce worries over Christmas.

☐ Don't slump in front of the TV. Fill your spare time with interesting and absorbing pursuits.

☐ If you must take work home, allocate a period when you can concentrate fully.

Jack springs a surprise

BY JENNAI COX

AFTER studying display and design in London, Andrew Hinks became a window dresser. Aged 22, he was stuck; working for Liberty meant, in his profession, there was nowhere better to go.

Or so he thought. When requests to buy a Jack-in-the-box he had made for a window display started flooding in, he began making them from home. Twenty years later, Mr Hinks heads the only such company in Britain, with an annual turnover of £250,000.

In 1978 Liberty asked him to use its fabrics for an elaborate toy-themed display. It encouraged him to make more Jacks in his spare time, to be sold in the store's scarves department. Four years later, he gave up his job, set up a stall in Covent Garden, and did nothing but make the old-fashioned toy, managing to complete about 20 a day.

From Jack In The Box, his company in Islington, North London, he now makes about 30,000 of the hand-made toys a year. Employing six people since he went into mass production five years ago, Mr Hinks, 41, has only recently started to make a respectable profit. Turnover in the first year was £60,000.

"It has been a lot of hard work with not much financial reward until the last couple of years," he said. "You have to make a lot of Jacks, and we are only just getting there now."

Half the company's output goes to America, Singapore, Japan, Germany and Hong Kong, a particularly good customer during the handover celebrations. Mr Hinks, who has been almost entirely self-financed, also supplies Pollocks Toy Museum and has done a number of commissions, including a glittery Jack for *The Shooting Party*, the film, and a 5ft version for a Rumbelows promotion.

As well as Liberty in this country, Mr Hinks's Jack-in-the-boxes are on sale at Hamleys, Harrods, John Lewis, Fortnum & Mason, and Daisy and Tom. He has also made a fairy-in-the-box, selling in the Royal Academy shop to promote the Victorian fairy painting exhibition, which will become part of his main collection next year.

The first Jack-in-the-box is believed to have been made in 1810, but they did not become commonplace until after the Industrial Revolution, when springs were mass-produced. Retailing at between £11.95 and £29.95, the 42 varieties of Jacks he produces have never been more popular, Mr Hinks said. "The Barbie business is so saturated, people are looking for something a little different. There is a great interest in nostalgia.

"It is not exactly how I planned my life, but the business is now as big as I want it to get and I am pleased it has been a success. We have done well, in a small way."

TONY WHITE



Andrew Hinks, with Jacks of his trade, makes 30,000 a year. "We have done well, in a small way."

BRIEFINGS

A lack of skilled workers is now the single most important problem for firms with more than 25 employees, according to the latest NatWest Bank/Small Business Research Trust report. The shortage is worse than at any time since 1989. Smaller businesses still rate low turnover as their greatest worry, although the proportion citing difficulty in recruiting the right staff has risen from 1 per cent to 11 per cent over the past five years.

☐ Barclays Bank is sending questionnaires to its business customers to assess the size of the millennium computer timebomb and what action is being taken.

☐ Business Link Hampshire is offering Websites to businesses in the county for £149 plus VAT. Each site will contain three Web pages. Information from Rachael Bridger on 01329 223203.



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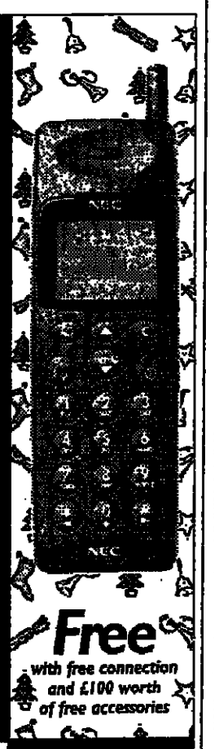
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The fun of the cup — and £10,000

Do you have the skill to choose a team and win the FA Cup league?

A £10,000 prize is up for grabs for the winner of the brand-new FA Cup league, a league within the ITF.

Entrants to ITF will automatically score points in the FA Cup league when the players in their team compete in the FA/Tennents Cup rounds. From January 3, English Premiership players will begin the knockout and January 24 sees the start of the Tennents Cup round involving Scottish premier division teams.

This is your chance to choose a team specifically for the FA Cup league. All players start scoring when the cup rounds involving English and Scottish premier divisions begin. All teams will be allocated transfers to use at their own discretion but remember, the sooner you enter the more transfers your team will be allocated.

Any team in the ITF before 12 noon last Saturday received 20 extra transfers in addition to their present allocation. From now on, all new teams will receive 20 transfers for the duration of the season. Postal entries must be received by Tuesday December 30 and telephone entries by 10am on Saturday January 3 in order to score points from the beginning of the FA Cup league competition. **Entrants must be 18 years or over.**

By competing in the FA Cup league, your players will automatically score points for matches played in the English and Scottish premier divisions during the 1997-98 football season as well and, if appropriate, in the mini leagues — students' or women's.

By scoring points in the ITF, your team could win the monthly prizes of £1,000, a signed Mitre football, a Mitre sports bag and a pair of tickets to a premier league match by scoring the most points in any one month. The mini league (student's and women's) also carry monthly prizes.

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Arsenal v Port Vale
Leicester City v Northampton Town or Basingstoke Town
Leeds United v Oxford United
Everton v Newcastle United
Liverpool v Coventry City
West Ham United v Lincoln City or Exeter
Derby County v Southampton
Tottenham Hotspur v Fulham
Crystal Palace v Scunthorpe United or Preston Town
Torquay United or Watford v Sheffield Wednesday
Chelsea v Manchester United
Wimbledon v Wrexham
Blackburn Rovers v Wigan Athletic
Barnsley v Bolton Wanderers
Ties to be played on January 3 and 4

ITF Terms and conditions: 1 You must enter through the media channel you wish to play by. 2 Entries must comply with the specifications of the team, as listed right. 3 There is no limit to the number of entries a person or household may make. 4 No responsibility is accepted for late or lost entries due to circumstances beyond our control. Indecipherable, inaudible or incomplete entries are null and void with no refund. The computer's record of the entry will be considered to be the entry. 5 The ITF committee's decision is final regarding all aspects of ITF. 6 Telephone entries and transfers are made by Touch-tone (DTMF) telephones only (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). 7 Promotional and explanatory copy relating to *The Times*/*The Sunday Times* ITF in association with LineOne the internet and Sky Sports Interactive. 8 Players values will be re-assessed at the end of January and March. 9 Official updated players/managers lists will be published in *The Times*. 10 The top prize goes to the entrant whose team scores the most points in the *FA Cup league. In the event of there being more than one winner, a tie-break will operate. These are no monthly prizes.* 11 The top prize for the main ITF game goes to the entrant whose team scores the most points throughout the 1997-98 football season. There are also second and third place prizes. In the event of there being more than one winner in any of these positions a tie-break will operate. 12 The manager of the month prize will go to the entrant whose team scores the most points in any one month. This applies to the main ITF game, the mini leagues and the Internet league. In the event of there being more than one league winner, a winner will be chosen at random. 13 No team will be eligible to win a prize unless they have abided by the competition rules. 14 Scores will count for the English and Scottish premier division and FA Cup/Tennents Cup involving English and Scottish premier division teams) matches for the 1997-98 season. 15 Calls for entries should take approximately eight minutes. Calls cost 50p per minute. Calls from pay phones cost approximately double. 16 The competition is not open to employees of News International, BSkyB, their relatives, agents or agents' relatives. 17 If a player or manager leaves the club during the season it may affect the composition of your team. You may adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points. 18 Full explanations on how your players will score points, how to transfer and how to check your score and position in the league are printed every week in *The Times*. 19 You may also enter a new team by LineOne, the Internet. Call 0800 111 210 for details; and by Sky Sports Interactive (Sky Text page 718).



HOW TO ENTER YOUR TEAM

THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY ALL ENTRANTS

TEAM NAME _____ (Up to 16 characters)

Goalkeeper _____
Full back _____
Full back _____
Central defender _____
Central defender _____
Midfielder _____
Midfielder _____
Midfielder _____
Midfielder _____
Striker _____
Striker _____
Manager _____

First Name _____
Surname _____
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Postcode _____ Daytime Tel _____
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This year ITF incorporates separate mini leagues. Please tick the correct league(s) for your entry.
☐ Women's League ☐ Student League

Entrants must be 18 or over to play in the ITF league, the Women's league and the Students' league.

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Send your entry with £2 entry fee (entrants outside the UK or Rep of Ireland £10 sterling) to: The Times Interactive Team Football, Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton, Bedfordshire LU1 1ZZ.

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Code	Name	Team	Price £m
10101	J Leighton	Aberdeen	2.00
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00
10301	M Bosnich	Aston Villa	3.00
10401	D Watson	Barnsley	1.00
10501	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	3.50
10601	K Branagan	Bolton Wanderers	1.50
10701	S Kerr	Celtic	4.00
10702	J Gould	Celtic	3.50
10801	E De Goey	Chelsea	3.00
10901	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50
11001	C Nash	Crystal Palace	0.25
11002	K Miller	Crystal Palace	2.00
11101	M Poom	Derby County	1.50
11201	S Dykstra	Dundee United	2.00
11301	I Westwater	Dunfermline	1.00
11401	N Southall	Everton	2.00
11501	G Rousset	Hearts	3.50
11601	C Reid	Hibernian	1.50
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11701	D Lekovic	Kilmarnock	1.00
11801	N Martyn	Leeds United	3.50
11901	K Keller	Leicester City	3.00
12001	D James	Liverpool	3.50
12101	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00
12201	S Howie	Motherwell	1.00
12301	S Given	Newcastle United	3.00
12401	A Goram	Rangers	5.00
12501	*K Pressman*	*Sheffield Wednesday*	2.00
12702	P Jones	Southampton	1.00
12601	A Main	St Johnstone	0.50
12801	I Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50
12901	L Mikdosko	West Ham United	2.00
13001	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	2.50

FULL BACKS

Code	Name	Team	Price £m
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20202	N Winterburn	Arsenal	3.00
20203	E Petit	Arsenal	3.00
20301	S Staunton	Aston Villa	2.50
20302	A Wright	Aston Villa	2.50
20303	S Grayson	Aston Villa	2.00
20304	F Nelson	Aston Villa	2.00
20401	N Eaden	Barnsley	0.50
20402	N Thompson	Barnsley	0.50
20403	D Barnard	Barnsley	1.00
20502	J Kenna	Blackburn Rovers	3.00
20503	P Valery	Blackburn Rovers	2.50
20601	*N Cox*	*Bolton Wanderers*	*2.00*
21901	M Whitlow	Bolton Wanderers	1.50
20602	R Elliott	Bolton Wanderers	2.00
20603	J Phillips	Bolton Wanderers	1.00
20701	T Boyd	Celtic	3.50
20702	T McKinlay	Celtic	3.50
20703	J McNamara	Celtic	3.00
20501	G Le Saux	Chelsea	4.00
20801	D Petrescu	Chelsea	4.00
20802	C Babayaro	Chelsea	2.00
20803	F Sinclair	Chelsea	2.00
20901	D Burrows	Coventry City	1.00
20903	M Hall	Coventry City	1.00
20904	R Nilsson	Coventry City	1.00
21001	D Gordon	Crystal Palace	1.50
21002	M Edworthy	Crystal Palace	1.50
21004	J Smith	Crystal Palace	1.50
21101	C Powell	Derby County	1.50
21102	D Yates	Derby County	1.00
21103	G Rowett	Derby County	1.50
21401	A Hinchcliffe	Everton	2.50
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21501	G Locke	Hearts	1.50
21701	D Kerr	Kilmarnock	1.00
21801	G Kelly	Leeds United	2.50
21802	D Robertson	Leeds United	2.50
21902	S Guppy	Leicester City	2.50
22001	S Bjornebye	Liverpool	3.00
22002	J McAteer	Liverpool	3.00
22003	R Jones	Liverpool	3.00
22101	D Irwin	Manchester United	4.00
22102	G Neville	Manchester United	3.50
22103	P Neville	Manchester United	3.50
22301	S Watson	Newcastle United	3.00
22302	W Barton	Newcastle United	2.00
22303	J Beresford	Newcastle United	2.00
22304	S Pearce	Newcastle United	3.00
22401	A Cleland	Rangers	3.00
22402	S Stensaas	Rangers	3.00
22501	P Blondeau	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00
22502	I Nolan	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00
22701	J Dodd	Southampton	1.50
22702	F Benali	Southampton	0.75
22703	S Charlton	Southampton	0.75
22801	C Wilson	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
22802	J Edinburgh	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
22803	S Carr	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
22901	J Dicks	West Ham United	3.00
22902	A Impey	West Ham United	1.50
22903	T Breacker	West Ham United	2.00
23001	B Thatcher	Wimbledon	2.00
23002	K Cunningham	Wimbledon	2.00
23003	A Kimble	Wimbledon	2.00

CENTRAL DEFENDERS

Code	Name	Team	Price £m
30101	B O'Neil	Aberdeen	2.00
30201	T Adams	Arsenal	3.00
30202	M Keown	Arsenal	3.00
30203	G Grimandi	Arsenal	2.00
30204	S Bould	Arsenal	3.00
30301	G Southgate	Aston Villa	3.00
30302	U Ehiogu	Aston Villa	3.00
30401	A De Zeeuw	Barnsley	1.00
30402	A Moses	Barnsley	0.50
30403	M Appleby	Barnsley	0.50
30502	C Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	3.00
30504	S Henchoz	Blackburn Rovers	2.50
30505	T Pedersen	Blackburn Rovers	2.00
30601	G Taggart	Bolton Wanderers	1.50
30602	G Bergsson	Bolton Wanderers	1.00
30603	C Fairclough	Bolton Wanderers	1.00
30604	M Fish	Bolton Wanderers	1.50
30701	E Annoni	Celtic	1.50
30702	M MacKay	Celtic	3.00
30703	A Stubbs	Celtic	3.00
30704	M Rieper	Celtic	3.00
30801	F Leboeuf	Chelsea	3.00
30802	M Duberry	Chelsea	3.00
30803	S Clarke	Chelsea	2.50
30804	S Lambourde	Chelsea	2.50
30901	L Dalah	Coventry City	1.50
30902	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50
30903	P Williams	Coventry City	1.50
31001	A Roberts	Crystal Palace	1.50
31002	A Linighan	Crystal Palace	0.75
31003	D Tuttle	Crystal Palace	0.75
31004	H Hreidarsson	Crystal Palace	1.00
31101	I Stimac	Derby County	2.50
31102	J Laursen	Derby County	1.50
31201	S Pressley	Dundee United	2.00
31301	G Shields	Dunfermline	1.50
31401	S Bilic	Everton	2.50
31402	*D Watson*	Everton	2.00
31404	C Tiler	Everton	1.50
31501	D Weir	Hearts	2.00
31601	J Hughes	Hibernian	2.00
31801	D Wetherall	Leeds United	2.50
31802	G Halle	Leeds United	2.00
31803	R Molenaar	Leeds United	2.00
31804	L Radebe	Leeds United	2.00
31901	M Elliott	Leicester City	3.50
31902	P Kasmarek	Leicester City	2.00
31903	S Walsh	Leicester City	2.50
31904	S Prior	Leicester City	2.00
32001	M Wright	Liverpool	3.00
32002	*D Matteo*	*Liverpool*	*3.00*
32003	S Kvarme	Liverpool	3.00
30501	H Berg	Manchester United	3.50
32101	D May	Manchester United	3.50
32102	G Pallister	Manchester United	3.50
32301	P Albert	Newcastle United	2.50
32302	D Peacock	Newcastle United	3.00
32303	S Howey	Newcastle United	2.00
32304	A Pistone	Newcastle United	3.00
32401	S Povlsi	Rangers	3.50
32402	J Bjorklund	Rangers	3.50
32403	L Amoruso	Rangers	3.50
32404	R Gough	Rangers	4.00
32501	D Walker	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00
32502	J Newsome	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00
32503	P Atherton	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00
32701	R Dryden	Southampton	1.00
32702	C Lundekvam	Southampton	1.00
32704	K Monkou	Southampton	1.00
32601	S McCluskey	St Johnstone	0.50
32801	S Campbell	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50
32802	J Scales	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50
32803	R Vega	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
32804	C Calderwood	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
32901	R Ferdinand	West Ham United	2.50
32902	R Hall	West Ham United	2.00
31403	D Unsworth	West Ham United	2.00
32903	S Potts	West Ham United	1.50
32904	I Pearce	West Ham United	2.00
33001	C Perry	Wimbledon	2.50
33002	D Blackwell	Wimbledon	2.50

MIDFIELD PLAYERS

Code	Name	Team	Price £m
40101	E Jess	Aberdeen	2.00
40102	P Bernard	Aberdeen	2.00
40201	M Overmars	Arsenal	5.50
40202	P Vieira	Arsenal	3.50
40203	S Hughes	Arsenal	2.00
40204	R Parlour	Arsenal	2.50
40205	D Platt	Arsenal	1.50
40301	M Draper	Aston Villa	3.00
40302	I Taylor	Aston Villa	2.50
40401	N Redfearn	Barnsley	3.00
40402	E Tinkler	Barnsley	2.00
40403	D Sheridan	Barnsley	1.00
40404	M Bullock	Barnsley	0.50
40501	J Wilcox	Blackburn Rovers	3.00
40502	B McKinlay	Blackburn Rovers	3.00
40503	T Sherwood	Blackburn Rovers	3.00
40504	G Flitcroft	Blackburn Rovers	3.00
40601	A Thompson	Bolton Wanderers	2.50
40602	S Sellars	Bolton Wanderers	2.00
40603	P Frandsen	Bolton Wanderers	2.00
40604	M Johansen	Bolton Wanderers	2.00
40605	J Pollock	Bolton Wanderers	2.00
40701	A Thom	Celtic	4.50
40702	P O'Donnell	Celtic	3.00
42503	R Blinker	Celtic	3.00
40704	C Burley	Celtic	3.00
40705	P Lambert	Celtic	3.00
40801	D Wise	Chelsea	3.50
40802	R Di Matteo	Chelsea	4.00
40803	E Newton	Chelsea	1.50
40804	G Poyet	Chelsea	3.00
40901	G McAllister	Coventry City	2.50
40902	T Soltvedt	Coventry City	1.50
40903	J Salako	Coventry City	1.50
40904	P Telfer	Coventry City	1.50
41002	S Rodger	Crystal Palace	1.00
41003	D Pitcher	Crystal Palace	0.25
41004	P Warhurst	Crystal Palace	1.50
41005	A Lombardo	Crystal Palace	3.00
41101	A Asanovic	Derby County	2.50
41102	S Eranio	Derby County	3.50
41103	D Powell	Derby County	1.50
41104	C Dailly	Derby County	1.50
41105	R Van Der Laan	Derby County	1.00
41106	J Hunt	Derby County	1.00
41201	R Winters	Dundee United	3.50
41301	A Smith	Dunfermline	3.50
41401	G Speed	Everton	3.50
41402	J Parkinson	Everton	1.50
41403	G Farrelly	Everton	1.50
41404	D Williamson	Everton	2.00
41405	J Oster	Everton	2.50
41501	N McCann	Hearts	3.50
41601	C Jackson	Hibernian	2.00
41602	B Lavety	Hibernian	2.00
41701	J McIntyre	Kilmarnock	2.00
41001	D Hopkin	Leeds United	3.50
41801	L Bowyer	Leeds United	3.00
41802	A Hasland	Leeds United	2.00
41803	L Sharpe	Leeds United	2.50
41804	B Ribeiro	Leeds United	2.50
41901	G *Parker*	Leicester City	2.00
41902	N Lennon	Leicester City	2.00
41903	M Izzet	Leicester City	2.00
41904	S Taylor	Leicester City	1.50
42001	S McManaman	Liverpool	6.00
42002	O Leonhardsen	Liverpool	3.00
42003	M Thomas	Liverpool	3.00
42004	J Redknapp	Liverpool	3.00
42006	P Ince	Liverpool	4.00
42101	D Beckham	Manchester United	8.00
42102	R Giggs	Manchester United	7.00
42103	R Keane	Manchester United	5.00
42104	N Butt	Manchester United	4.00
42105	*A Cole*	Manchester United	*7.00*
42201	B Davies	Motherwell	2.00
42301	R Lee	Newcastle United	5.00
42302	K Gillespie	Newcastle United	3.50
42303	D Batty	Newcastle United	2.50
42005	J Barnes	Newcastle United	3.00
42401	B Laudrup	Rangers	8.50
42402	P Gascoigne	Rangers	5.00
42403	J Therm	Rangers	3.00
42404	J Albertz	Rangers	4.00
42501	B Carbone	Sheffield Wednesday	3.00
42701	J Magilton	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00
42502	M Pembridge	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00
42504	G Hyde	Sheffield Wednesday	1.00
42505	G Whittingham	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50
42702	R Slater	Southampton	0.75
42704	K Richardson	Southampton	0.50
42705	C Palmer	Southampton	2.00
42706	M Oakley	Southampton	1.50
42601	A Sekerlioglu	St Johnstone	0.75
42801	A Sinton	Tottenham Hotspur	3.00
42802	D Anderton	Tottenham Hotspur	3.00
42803	R Fox	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
42804	D Howells	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
42805	D Ginola	Tottenham Hotspur	3.00
42901	E Berkovic	West Ham United	2.50
42902	S Lomas	West Ham United	2.50
42903	J Moncur	West Ham United	2.00
43001	R Earle	Wimbledon	4.00
43002	N Ardley	Wimbledon	2.00
43003	V Jones	Wimbledon	2.00
43004	M Hughes	Wimbledon	2.00
43004	C Hughes	Wimbledon	1.50

STRIKERS

Code	Name	Team	Price £m
50101	B Dodds	Aberdeen	4.00
50201	I Wright	Arsenal	7.50
50202	D Bergkamp	Arsenal	8.50
50301	D Yorke	Aston Villa	6.00
50302	S Collymore	Aston Villa	5.00
50303	S Milosevic	Aston Villa	3.00
50401	G Hristov	Barnsley	1.50
50402	J Hendrie	Barnsley	1.50
51102	A Ward	Barnsley	2.00
50403	C Marcelle	Barnsley	1.00
50501	K Gallacher	Blackburn Rovers	5.50
50502	M Dahlin	Blackburn Rovers	4.00
50503	C Sutton	Blackburn Rovers	6.00
50602	N Blake	Bolton Wanderers	3.50
50603	P Beardsley	Bolton Wanderers	2.00
53003	D Holdsworth	Bolton Wanderers	3.00
51601	D Jackson	Celtic	4.00
50703	T Johnson	Celtic	2.50
50704	S Donnelly	Celtic	4.50
50705	H Larsson	Celtic	4.50
50801	G Zola	Chelsea	7.00
50802	M Hughes	Chelsea	5.00
50901	D Dublin	Coventry City	5.00
50902	D Hucterby	Coventry City	2.50
50903	N Whelan	Coventry City	2.00
51001	N Shipperley	Crystal Palace	1.50
51003	B Dyer	Crystal Palace	2.00
51004	M Padovano	Crystal Palace	2.50
51101	D Sturridge	Derby County	4.00
51103	P Baiano	Derby County	4.50
51104	D Burton	Derby County	1.50
51105	P Wanchope	Derby County	5.50
51201	A McLaren	Dundee United	3.00
51202	K Olofsson	Dundee United	4.00
51301	G Britton	Dunfermline	2.00
51401	D Ferguson	Everton	4.00
51402	N Barmby	Everton	3.00
51404	D Cadamarteri	Everton	2.50
51501	J Robertson	Hearts	3.50
51502	J Hamilton	Hearts	3.00
51602	S Crawford	Hibernian	3.00
51701	P Wright	Kilmarnock	5.00
51702	A Mitchell	Kilmarnock	2.50
51801	J Hasselbaink	Leeds United	3.00
51803	R Wallace	Leeds United	3.50
51804	H Kewell	Leeds United	2.00
51901	S Claridge	Leicester City	2.50
51902	E Heskey	Leicester City	4.50
51903	I Marshall	Leicester City	2.50
51904	G Ferton	Leicester City	2.00
52001	R Fowler	Liverpool	8.00
52002	P Berger	Liverpool	3.00
52003	K Riedle	Liverpool	4.50
52004	M Owen	Liverpool	4.50
52101	O Solskjaer	Manchester United	7.50
52102	T Sheringham	Manchester United	7.00
52103	P Scholes	Manchester United	6.00
52201	*O Coyle*	Motherwell	3.00
52202	T Coyne	Motherwell	3.00
52301	A Shearer	Newcastle United	10.00
52303	F Asprilla	Newcastle United	6.00
52304	J Tomasson	Newcastle United	2.00
52401	M Negri	Rangers	8.50
52402	S Rozental	Rangers	3.50
52403	G Durie	Rangers	3.00
52501	A Booth	Sheffield Wednesday	3.00
50702	P Di Canio	Sheffield Wednesday	3.00
52503	R Humphreys	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00
52701	M Le Tissier	Southampton	7.00
52502	D Hirst	Southampton	2.50
52702	E Ostenstad	Southampton	4.00
52704	K Davies	Southampton	3.50
52601	G O'Boyle	St Johnstone	1.50
52602	R Grant	St Johnstone	1.00
52801	S Iversen	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50
52802	L Ferdinand	Tottenham Hotspur	7.50
52802	C Armstrong	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50
52803	J Dozzingues	Tottenham Hotspur	3.00
52901	J Hartson	West Ham United	4.50
52902	P Kitson	West Ham United	3.00
52903	I Dowie	West Ham United	1.50
53001	M Gayle	Wimbledon	4.00
53002	E Ekolu	Wimbledon	4.00
53004	C Cort	Wimbledon	3.00

MANAGERS

Code	Name	Team	Price £m
60102	A Miller	Aberdeen	1.50
60201	A Wenger	Arsenal	5.00
60301	B Little	Aston Villa	2.50
60401	*D Wilson*	Barnsley	0.50
60501	R Hodgson	Blackburn Rovers	3.50
60601	C Todd	Bolton Wanderers	1.50
60701	W Jansen	Celtic	4.00
60801	R Gullit	Chelsea	3.50
60901	G Strachan	Coventry City	1.00
61001	S Coppell	Crystal Palace	0.75
61101	J Smith	Derby County	2.50
61201	T McLean	Dundee United	2.00
61301	B Paton	Dunfermline	1.00
61401	H Kendall	Everton	2.00
61501	J Jefferies	Hearts	3.50
61601	*J Duffy*	Hibernian	2.00
61701	B Williamson	Kilmarnock	1.00
61801	G Graham	Leeds United	3.00
61901	M O'Neill	Leicester City	2.50
62001	R Evans	Liverpool	3.00
62101	A Ferguson	Manchester United	5.00
62201	A McLeish	Motherwell	1.00
62301	K Dalglish	Newcastle United	4.00
62401	W Smith	Rangers	5.00
62502	R Atkinson	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50
62701	D Jones	Southampton	0.50
62901	P Sturrock	St Johnstone	0.50
62902	*C Gross*	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
62901	H Redknapp	West Ham United	2.00
63001	J Kinnear	Wimbledon	2.00

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SAILING

Scoring system points way to brighter racing

BY EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

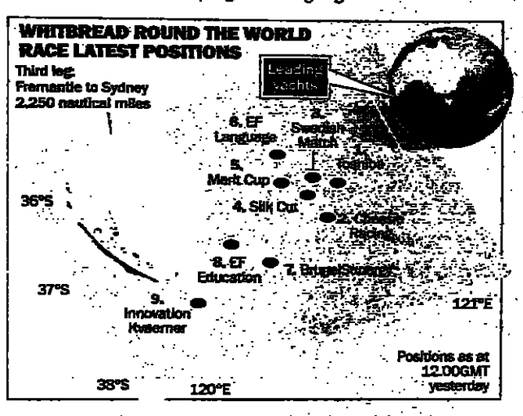
FINALLY, the Whitbread Round the World Race fleet is enjoying what Lawrie Smith, the British skipper of *Silk Cut*, yesterday called "proper yacht racing" as the crews continue their game of cat and mouse on the long beat across the Great Australian Bight towards the Bass Strait.

Smith is relishing the chance to mix it in a fleet-racing setting where trimmming for speed, good crew-work, boat handling and sharp tactics make the difference between winning and losing. On the first two legs, there was precious little of this, when two boats 100 miles apart were considered close.

Now it is more like a giant Admiral's Cup race and that should suit the experienced inshore racers in the fleet such as Smith, Paul Cayard, on *EF Language*, John Kostecki, on *Chessie Racing*, and Roy Heiner, on *BrunelSunergy*. Yesterday, the third day out from Fremantle, there was still less than 20 miles separating first — Paul Standbridge, on *Toshiba* — from last — Knut Frostad, on *Innovation Kvaerner* — and average speeds were remarkably consistent throughout the fleet.

Having left the southwest tip of Australia behind, the fleet has spread out on a north-south axis over about 60 miles, with Cayard furthest north and Frostad furthest south. Grant Dalton, skipper of *Merit Cup*, the third-most northerly boat, said he believed that a mistake by anyone now could have a decisive bearing on the outcome of the leg.

"Boats are starting to make their play for a north or south course, so it will be another 24 hours or so until things start to sort themselves out," Dalton said. "A mistake now could prove costly in the long run. I'm not prepared to say what we think, but there appear to be two schools of thought, although not radically different ... the southern course taken by *Kvaerner* and the northern course by *EF Language*."



DISTANCE TO FINISH (as at 12·00GMT, with miles to Sydney): 1, Toshiba (US) 1,645.2 miles; 2, Chessie Racing (US) 1,648.8; 3, Swedish Match (Swe) 1,648.8; 4, Silk Cut (GB) 1,649.8; 5, Merit Cup (Monaco) 1,652.3; 6, EF Language (Swe) 1,652.4; 7, BrunelSunergy (Holl) 1,654.7; 8, EF Education (Swe) 1,660 9; 9, Innovation Kvaerner (Nor) 1,665 0.

The fascination of this race has much to do with the new points system. Yesterday, for example, the fleet ranking order translated into final overall positions at the end of leg three, propels Standbridge into a 15-point lead over Cayard. There are then only 20 points separating Cayard from Frostad, who would have slipped from leading to fifth place, behind *Swedish Match* in third and Smith in fourth place. Dalton would be off the pace in seventh, a full 44 points adrift of Standbridge.

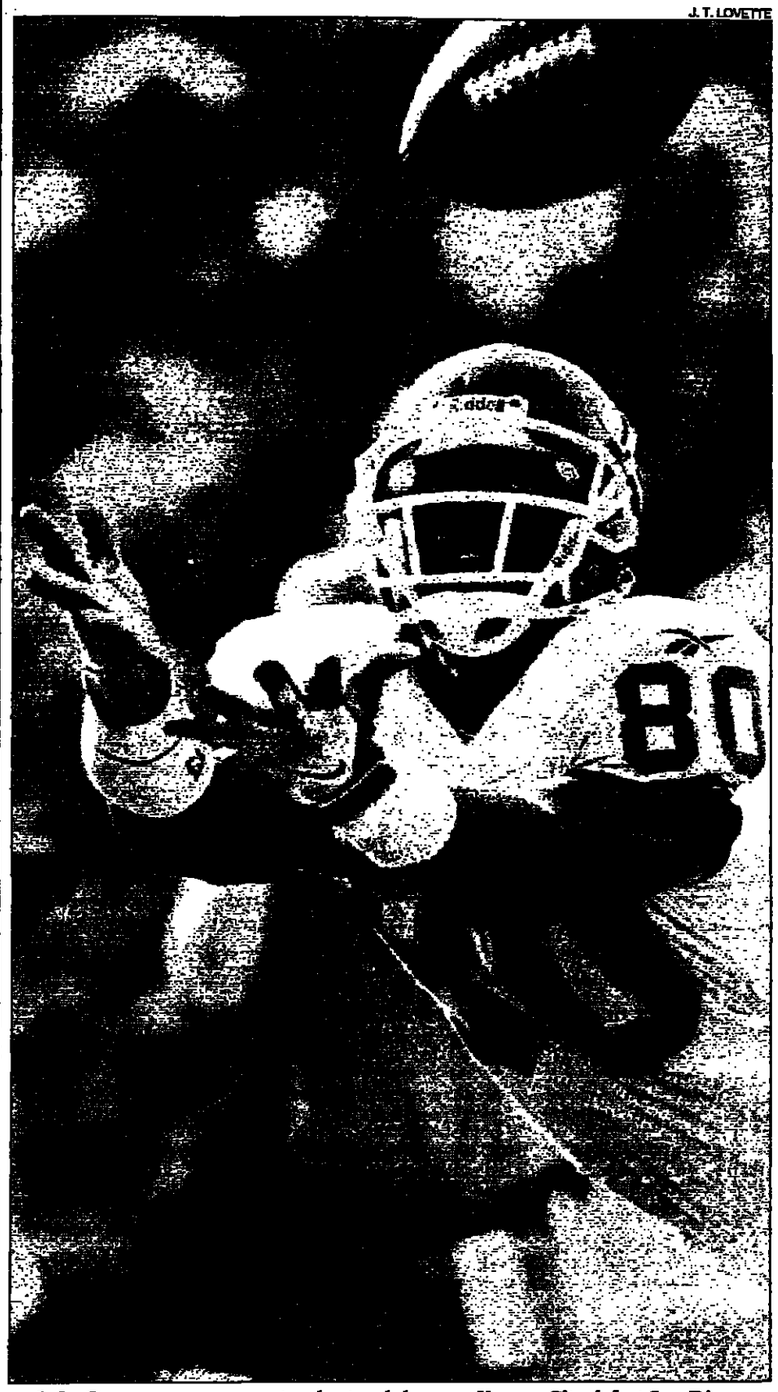
With positions of rival boats transmitted to the skippers every six hours, it is impossible for them to ignore the changing arithmetic of the points system, as they try to weigh up competing options on the course. There is no doubt, for example, that Dalton will do almost anything in the next few days to try to stop himself drifting down the fleet in a leg that he set out to win. It is hard to imagine him setting off at the beginning of leg four in three weeks' time, to his home port of Auckland, in seventh place overall.

Standbridge, meanwhile, is happy to be ahead after surviving a series of what he called his "heart-stopping moments" on *Toshiba*. All the drama happened as the yacht was passing Rottnest Island, shortly after the start of the leg at the weekend. First, the boat got stuck in a fish trap, then one of the halyard winches sheared from its mountings and flew into the sea and finally the depth transducer in the forward section of the hull popped out, flooding the bow compartment.

"After that, we settled down to a night of crashing and banging, short tacking our way south in up to 28 knots," Standbridge said yesterday. "At the moment, it is a drag race for the first time."

Sun goes down on calamitous Cowboys

J. T. LOVETTE



Lake Dowson scores a spectacular touchdown as Kansas City defeat San Diego

BY OLIVER HOLT

THE spotlight fell on the fall from disgrace of the Dallas Cowboys on Sunday. Like Ian Wright, the Arsenal footballer, they appear to have conquered their extracurricular problems only at the expense of their on-field prowess and, as they slid out of the National Football League (NFL) play-off picture with another embarrassing defeat, the club that has inherited their mantle of America's Team surged on towards the Super Bowl.

The Cowboys, who have won the National Football Conference (NFC) East division title for the past five years, collapsed to a 31-24 defeat at the hands of the Cincinatti Bengals. They have now lost nine of their 15 games this season — the first time for seven years that they have failed to progress beyond the regular season.

Against a background of reports that, earlier in the week, Troy Aikman, the Cowboys quarterback, had stormed off the training field despairing of his colleagues' performance and attitude, fevered speculation has continued about the fate of the Dallas coach, Barry Switzer.

"We played a pretty good ball game," Switzer said, "except for the second and third quarters, when it was disastrous." That provoked more mirth about the pronouncements of a man once labelled Bozo the Coach. His statement, one American commentator said, was like crediting Saddam Hussein with having a good Gulf War until the United States got involved.

The architect of the Cowboys' downfall was Boomer Esiason, the veteran Bengals quarterback, who passed for 269 yards and two touchdowns. It was the Cowboys' fourth successive loss and their seventh consecutive defeat away from their home field in Texas.

The Green Bay Packers, however, seem to be going from strength to strength. The Super Bowl champions and new idols of the sport have won their past four games and appear to be peaking at just the right time, vying now for home-field advantage throughout the play-offs, which would virtually guarantee a return to the Super Bowl in San Diego next month.

Against the Carolina Panthers, at the Eriksson Stadium in Charlotte, where the home team used to be so dominant, the Packers eased past their hosts 31-10 with another superlative performance from Brett Favre, their quarterback. Ominously for the rest, though, the Packers' running game also seems to be coming good at just the right time.

The win took the Packers' record to 12 wins and three defeats and piled the pressure on the San Francisco 49ers, the other dominant team in the NFC, to beat the Denver Broncos last night in the race for home-field advantage. Next weekend is the last in the regular season.

Dorsey Levens, the Packers' leading running back, rushed 17 times for 73 yards, but the best move of the game was made by Antonio Freeman, the wide receiver. With the Packers leading 17-3 in the third quarter, Freeman executed a wonderful feint that deceived his covering player and freed him to receive Favre's bullet throw.

If the Cowboys' decline has been spectacular, then so, too, has the improvement of the New York Jets. The whipping boys of the NFL last season with just one win, they moved to within an ace of the play-offs on Sunday by routing the Tampa Bay Bucanneers 31-0 in New Jersey.

The Bucanneers, who have scraped through to the play-offs, were overrun by the Jets, who can now clinch their own place by beating the Detroit Lions in Michigan next week, a result that would bring them their tenth victory this year. They could even clinch the American Football Conference East division title if the New England Patriots and the Miami Dolphins tie in Florida, a scenario that would have been ridiculed a year ago.

"Tampa Bay has a young team," Bill Parcells, the Jets' coaching alchemist, said, "and we got the jump on them today. Maybe they had a tough time keeping things in perspective." Perhaps that problem is afflicting Switzer, too.

RESULTS AND TABLES

RESULTS: Atlanta 20 Philadelphia 17; Baltimore 21 Tennessee 19; Buffalo 14 Jacksonville 20; Cincinnati 31 Dallas 24; Indianapolis 41 Miami 0; Minnesota 13 Detroit 14; New York Jets 31 Tampa Bay 0; Carolina 10 Green Bay 31; New Orleans 27 Arizona 10; Oakland 21 Seattle 22; San Diego 7 Kansas City 29; St Louis 10 Chicago 13.

Not including last night's match San Francisco v Denver

** denotes qualified for play-offs*
† denotes division winners

AFC Eastern division

	W	L	T	F	A
Miami	9	6	0	327	313
New England	9	6	0	356	277
NY Jets	9	6	0	338	274
Buffalo	6	9	0	234	336
Indianapolis	3	12	0	285	362

AFC Central division

	W	L	T	F	A
* Pittsburgh	11	4	0	366	291
* Jacksonville	10	5	0	374	309
Tennessee	7	8	0	317	304
Baltimore	6	8	1	312	329
Cincinnati	6	9	0	339	391

AFC Western division

	W	L	T	F	A
* Kansas City	12	3	0	350	219
* Denver	11	3	0	417	250
Seattle	7	8	0	327	353
Oakland	4	11	0	315	399
San Diego	4	11	0	263	387

NFC Eastern division

	W	L	T	F	A
† NY Giants	9	5	1	287	258
Washington	7	8	1	292	257
Philadelphia	6	8	1	265	337
Dallas	6	9	0	297	294
Arizona	3	12	0	254	353

NFC Central division

	W	L	T	F	A
† Green Bay	12	3	0	391	261
* Tampa Bay	9	6	0	268	248
Detroit	8	7	0	366	296
Minnesota	8	7	0	315	331
Chicago	4	11	0	248	390

NFC Western division

	W	L	T	F	A
† S Francisco	12	2	0	332	210
Atlanta	7	8	0	294	332
Carolina	7	8	0	247	294
New Orleans	6	9	0	224	302
St Louis	4	11	0	269	341

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

I saw this hand in the 1995 Oxford v Cambridge bridge match.

West	East
♠AQJ942	♠K10
♥K95	♥AJ864
♦AJ3	♦KQ43
♣5	♣62

This was the auction:

West	East
1 S	2 H
4 C (1)	4 D (2)
4 S (2)	4 NT (3)
5 C (4)	6 H

1) "Splinter" bid, showing heart support and a singleton club.
2) Cue-bids
3) Roman Key Card Blackwood
4) 0 or 3 of the five "aces". (The regular four, plus the king of trumps).

Six Hearts is an indifferent contract, and Six Spades is laydown barring a red suit void. What went wrong?

The worst bid in the auction was West's Four Clubs. An important requirement for making a splinter bid is to have good trump support, almost invariably at least four cards.

West should have bid Three Spades over Two Hearts. Admittedly it is not clear what East should do then, but it would be reasonable for him to continue with Four Diamonds. When West bids Four Hearts East goes back to Four Spades, and now West can see that a) the Four Diamonds bid was a cue bid in support of spades, and b) that East does not have wastage in clubs — he has clearly bid Four Diamonds on second-round control, so cannot have second-round control of clubs.

Thus West can continue with Four No-Trumps and when East shows two of the five key cards (remember, spades is now the agreed suit and so the king of spades is the fifth ace), he can bid Six Spades.

☐ The Gold Cup has been won by Alan Mould's team (Gary Hyett, John Collings, Martin Jones, Paul Bowyer and John Helme). In the final, played in Peebles, they beat Ian Reissmann's team (Mike Perkins, Su Burn, Steve Eginton, Sally and Raymond Brock) by 60 IMPs. Mould beat Townsend and Reissman beat Steel in the semi-finals.

☐ The Macallan International Bridge Pairs Championship 1998 will be played at The White House Hotel, Albany Street, London NW1 from Wednesday January 21 to Friday January 23. Tickets and information are available from the Macallan Box Office, 31 Queens Road, Mortlake, London SW14 8PH. Tel: 0181-878 5844.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

British advance

In the third round of the Fide (World Chess Federation) championship in Groningen, Holland, the British grandmasters Nigel Short and Michael Adams both won.

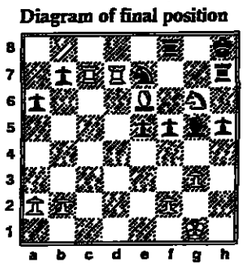
White: Michael Adams
Black: Sergei Tiviakov

Fide world championship Groningen. December 1997

Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	d6
3	Bb5+	Nc6
4	0-0	Bd7
5	Re1	Nf6
6	c3	a6
7	Bf1	Bg4
8	d3	g6
9	Nbd2	Bg7
10	h3	Bxf3
11	Nxf3	0-0
12	d4	cxd4
13	cxd4	Rc8
14	Qb3	Rc7
15	Bf4	Nd7
16	Rad1	Qb8
17	h4	e5
18	dxe5	dxe5
19	Be3	Qe8
20	Qa3	Qe7
21	Qxe7	Nxe7
22	g3	h6
23	Rd6	Nc8
24	Rd2	Nf8
25	Rdd1	Nxe4
26	Bxh6	Bxh6
27	Rxe4	f5
28	Rc4	Re7
29	h5	gxh5
30	Nh4	Rh7
31	Bh3	Ne7
32	Be6+	Kh8
33	Rc7	f5
34	Rdd7	Bg5
35	Ng6+	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



White: Nigel Short
Black: Andrei Sokolov

Fide world championship Groningen, December 1997

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	e6
3	d4	cxd4
4	Nxd4	Nc6
5	Nc3	d6
6	Be2	Nf6
7	Be3	Be7
8	0-0	Bd7
9	Nb3	a6
10	f4	b5
11	a3	0-0
12	g4	Bc8
13	Qe1	Bb7
14	Rd1	b4
15	g5	bxc3
16	gxf6	Bxf6
17	e5	Bh4
18	Qxc3	d5
19	Nc5	Qc7
20	f5	d4
21	Rxd4	Nxd4
22	Qxd4	Bd5
23	Qxh4	Qxe5
24	Qd4	Qxd4
25	Bxd4	e5
26	Be3	a5
27	Rd1	Black resigns

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

SHENANDOAH
a. Mother-of-pearl
b. Rig of a racing yacht
c. A river in Virginia

MERCALLI
a. Scale of earthquakes
b. An Italian racing driver
c. A type of pasta

HACKAMORE
a. Of mixed race
b. An Etonian football team
c. A halter

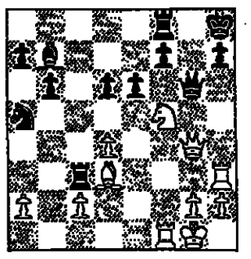
VERBUNKO
a. A gambling word-game
b. Struck speechless
c. A Hungarian dance

Answers on page 46

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Yates — Colle, Hastings 1926. Black has lost his g-pawn and thus has great difficulties defending his exposed king. He has ferried his queen over to help but White now demonstrated that this piece is also a target. How did the game conclude?



Solution on page 46

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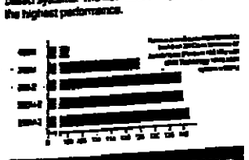
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Times writers continue to cast their eyes over the best sports books of the year

Discerning view from chroniclers of new professional age

RUGBY UNION

by David Hands

WHAT one yearns most for in sport is perspective. Rugby union needs it more than most as it struggles to come to terms with professionalism and it gets it from Ian Malin in *Mud, Blood and Money*. Malin, a journalist with *The Guardian*, subtitles his book: *English Rugby Union goes Professional* and paints a picture of a sport twisting and turning in desperation for the way forward.

Yet he does not isolate his subject, he does not remove it from the real world in the way that the outcrop of narratives on the British Isles tour to South Africa this summer do. For so many of the authors and their ghosts, there is only the tour: they are as far removed from the perceptive and intelligent books on rugby touring that prospered during the Sixties and Seventies — mostly from the typewriters of Terry McLean and John Reason — as it is possible to be.

One's emotions are tugged by Malin from the very start: his dedication is to Ian Tucker, the Australian at Oxford University who died as the result of a tackle during a game last year. It does no harm to be reminded that the game survives on a basis of self-discipline and self-restraint, features which have required application off the field as much as on it during the frantic politicking in which the English game has indulged.

The style is that of one standing on the edge of a cliff, appreciative of the view but apprehensive in case he should fall. There is an intimacy as Malin pokes his notebook into the doings of Marlock RFC in darkest Somerset and into student rugby, into the perils that could befall an England captain then and now and a painful awareness of losing a friend with whom you were brought up but who has now developed into someone, well, someone different.

That difference is admirably portrayed by John Hart, coach to New Zealand. Four years ago, Hart joined with Paul Thomas to write *Straight from the Hart* — part biography, part philosophy — and it sold 33,000 copies, which would be good going here, but in New Zealand was amazing for a sports tome.

Now comes *Change of Hart* (due to be available here in the new year), which covers the period from Hart's elevation — at the third attempt — in 1995 to the position of national coach, which he will hold until the 1999 World Cup. The two books are complementary, but the second suggests that New Zealand, probably for the wrong reasons, were right to give Hart his head in the immediate wake of the game going professional.

He brings to the game the formidable man-management and organisational skills that distinguished his business career with Fletcher Challenge Ltd. The book is largely an account of 1996, the year in which the All Blacks put behind them the loss of the World Cup final the previous year and showed the game just how it should be played and how much it meant to New Zealanders to win a series in South Africa for the first time. However, Hart has a vision for the game which encompasses more than the global branding he seeks for the All Blacks, which stares intently at the possibility of rugby as a genuine world game — which, at present, it is not. He also concludes his book with words that may strike a chord in the light of pronouncements last week within the English game: "The more I'm involved, the more I see the need to support the amateur game and winning the World Cup would bring in the revenue to sustain our game at all levels."

Perhaps there is a touch of the amateur about Miles Harrison — though not, I hasten to add, in the work he puts in which have helped develop his reputation as an informative television commentator. It is more the sense of boyish enthusiasm that runs through *Best Seat in the House*, the most readable of the Lions tour books. Harrison was fortunate in that his first Lions tour was a winning one. Like Malin, he brings a wider perspective to the work and enables us to share his enjoyment.

☐ *Mud, Blood and Money*, by Ian Malin (Mainstream Publishing, £15.99).
☐ *Change of Hart*, by Paul Thomas (Hodder Moa Beckett).
☐ *Best Seat in the House*, by Miles Harrison (Aurum Press, £14.95).

Trying to revive a once-proud literary tradition

CRICKET

by Simon Wilde

IT WAS not the point of the piece, but the introduction to Murray Hedgcock's fascinating and delightfully produced little book, *Wodehouse at the Wicket*, provides a plausible explanation as to where cricket acquired its reputation for distinguished literature, a reputation that, in modern times, has sometimes appeared cruelly misplaced.

P. G. Wodehouse, one of the greatest comic writers in the English language, was a useful club player and ardent cricket fan who, as Hedgcock's compendium shows, loved to weave the game into his stories. Wodehouse once took nine for 14 during a school match at Dulwich and, until he settled in the United States, the game formed an integral part of his life.

What is striking is the apparent importance of cricket to the Edwardian literary set. Wodehouse frequently took the field with the likes of Arthur Conan Doyle, E. W. Hornung, J. M. Barrie, Hugh de Selincourt and Alec Waugh — and was far from the only one to incorporate the game into his fiction. Hornung wrote several stories around the magnificent Raffles, the gentleman thief and demon bowler, and de Selincourt penned arguably the finest fictional account of a game in *The Cricket Match*.

Nor was theirs the first celebrated literary circle to treasure the summer game: that honour goes to the Romantic group that included Charles Lamb, William Hazlitt and Leigh Hunt, and one of whom, John Nyren, chronicled the glory days of Hambledon, the first great cricket club, whose story is put into intriguingly fresh perspective by Ashley Mote and Peter Wynne-Thomas respectively in two more of the year's best books. No wonder the aspiring but not so well connected Lancastrian, Neville Cardus, took to writing about the game.

Cricket was also popular among thespians, who met the authors in an annual fixture at Lord's for many years, as we are reminded by Grenville Simons's diligent and affectionate biography of his distant ancestor, William Yardley. In his day, Yardley was reckoned as a batsman to be second only to W. G. Grace, but, at the age of 29, he threw in the game for the theatre, where he enjoyed acclaim, as actor, critic and playwright.

As long as cricket remained thoroughly English, literature had a use for it; once that ceased to be the case, separation was assured. That point was apparently reached by the Fifties when, from across the Atlantic, Wodehouse, for one, noticed a difference. "What's happened to English cricket?" he wrote to a friend. "I understand there aren't any amateurs any more ... If I came back to England in the summer, I wonder if I'd find cricket interesting."

Wodehouse never did come back, one reason being that he was afraid of a hostile reception, having made some wartime radio broadcasts that had been perceived in England as unpatriotic — a factor not referred to in Hedgcock's work. He died, a baseball fan, in 1975.

For many years now, cricket writing has lain largely in the hands of professional journalists, amateur enthusiasts and contributors to *Test Match Special*, which trades with diminishing success on its once-quintessential Englishness. It is a big business, in quantity if not originality or sales (unless Ian Botham's name is on the cover).

Journalists have tended to focus on the contemporary scene in the hope of reaching the mass-market (their laptops this year turning out, among other things, biographies of Michael Atherton and Jack Russell and two players' eye accounts of the Ashes series), amateurs on the nostalgic (biographies of long-ago heroes such as Grace, Sydney Barnes and Sammy Woods) and the worthy but ephemeral (histories of the game in Hertfordshire and under-arm bowling are among 1997's quainter offerings).

What is most noticeably absent is humour — which would not have amused Wodehouse. It is refreshing, therefore, when author and publisher dare to attempt something different and touched with human warmth, as is the case with Simon Hughes's alarmingly honest diary of his 15 years as a county cricketer, *A Lot of Hard Yakka*. It is worth reading to the end, if only to hear about Botham and the dolcelatte.

Another revivifyingly offbeat diary is David Hopps's year-long odyssey that sets against England's travails and triumphs against Zimbabwe, New Zealand and Australia his own battles at the head of his Yorkshire village XI. While Atherton's leadership survives a traumatic year, the author's does not.



Atherton: biography

☐ *Wodehouse at the Wicket*, edited by Murray Hedgcock (Hutchinson, £12.99).
☐ *We're Right Behind You, Captain!*, by David Hopps (Robson, £17.95).
☐ *A Lot of Hard Yakka*, by Simon Hughes (Headline, £16.99).
☐ *The Glory Days of Cricket: The Extraordinary Story of Broadhalfpenny Down*, by Ashley Mote (Robson, £22.95).
☐ *William Yardley: Master of Bat and Burlesque*, by Grenville Simons (Wisteria Books, Birt Street, Birtsmorton, Malvern, Worcs: £15 plus £1.50 p&p).
☐ *The History of Cricket: From the Weald to the World*, by Peter Wynne-Thomas (available from The Stationery Office, £25).

Madness in top coach's methods

TENNIS

by Julian Muscat

Although Nick Bollettieri's account of his life to date gives away little about his coaching methods, it serves one very useful purpose. All parents with a child prodigy on their hands are forewarned of the man's values. *My Aces, My Faults* extols the virtues of vanity, fast-food chains, distorted priorities and an overbearing sense of the man's own worth.

Like Andre Agassi, its most famed graduate, Bollettieri's tennis academy is a product of fashion over substance. It is a dangerous move to bind fashion between hardback covers, a point that comes across forcibly in this book. Much of it is devoted to Agassi and Monica Seles, both of whose names generated resonance when Bollettieri's work was published in June. The question now gripping the world of tennis is not their stardom, but their abject failure to survive the course.

Tennis, with its one-on-one encounters, is truly a mind game and Bollettieri's ability to engage the mind is his greatest asset. As the sport's original psychiatrist, he has chosen a medium offering plenty of suitable candidates. The fallouts from such relationships are always spectacular, however, and Bollettieri's fiercest barbs are reserved for rival coaches who have simply outpsyched him. In fashioning their own mind potions, they render his obsolete.



Bollettieri's need to control his charges is a warning for parents of tennis prodigies

Essentially, Bollettieri's message is that he must control every facet of his charges to ensure the maximum reward. The irony is that his own disjointed personal life reflects the fallacy of that philosophy. This book is worth a read for all the wrong reasons: it should be compulsory bedside matter for overzealous tennis parents.

Given Bollettieri's missive of tennis as we approach the millennium, the publishers of *A Handful Of Summers* have reprinted Gordon Forbes's assorted memoirs at precisely the right time. It makes a compelling account of a wide-eyed South African youth learning lessons in life as well as tennis on his international travels.

A compulsive sleepwalker, Forbes's account of the night that he shared a room with Rod Laver embraces some of the finest literature conceived from a sportsman's pen. If this offering falls squarely within reflections on a bygone age, no apologies are necessary. Interest surrounding the recent seniors' match between John McEnroe and Bjorn Borg demonstrated the demand for such nostalgia.

In a similar vein, *The Ballad Of Worpole Road* — a poetic tribute to the development of Wimbledon, by Max Robertson, formerly of BBC Radio — will appeal to those of a lighthearted disposition. This is ideal material for those with long memories, although some things never change. One of many enjoyable cartoons by Loon depicts the infant Suzanne Lenglen receiving the gift of a tennis racket from her father, who fashioned her remarkable career. The teenage sensation is far from a Nineties phenomenon.

☐ *My Aces, My Faults*, by Nick Bollettieri and Dick Schaap (Robson Books, £17.95).
☐ *A Handful Of Summers*, by Gordon Forbes (Harper Collins, £5.99).
☐ *The Ballad Of Worpole Road*, by Max Robertson (Queen Anne Press, £9.99).

Rewriting history without heroes

SWIMMING

by Craig Lord

IMAGINE reading a history of British football without George Best, a tome on racing this century without Lester Piggott or a retrospective on Wimbledon without Virginia Wade. The urge to return such books to the shelf, there to gather dust, would be overwhelming. Alongside those, there is a place for *In the Swim*, which boasts of charting "the full history" of the Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) from 1869.

The index hints at the horror to come. No Grinham or Lonsbrough to be found. Could this be right? Well, let's try another Olympic champion. Moorhouse. No, afraid not. Gillingham or Hardcastle? No. Sharron Davies, then? No. Oh dear. Some of these names are in fact granted passing mentions in the book, even the odd photograph, but any discerning reader is left open-mouthed by the failure to tell the sport's headline success stories and reflect the life and colour of its most famous characters.

The authors lament the lack of media coverage of the sport since its heyday in the Fifties and Sixties, when British swimmers won Olympic, European and Commonwealth titles. "It is ironic that it could well be that swimmers lacked interest because they behaved themselves," the authors wail in confirmation that, like the ASA itself, they have not understood the issue.

This book and the ASA should spend more time publicising the association's great successes and less turning the public off with a welter of information about how well its bureaucracy works.

If there is anything to commend in the book, it is the excellent use of old newspaper and magazine cuttings, postcards, cartoons and other artwork that tell the story of swimming in pictures. Generally, however, *In the Swim* is best left to sink without trace.

☐ *In the Swim*, by Ian Keil and Don Wix (Swimming Times Ltd, £9.95).

King inspires with tale of triumph over adversity

EQUESTRIANISM

by Jenny MacArthur

MARY KING'S story is one to inspire every horse-mad teenager. Born to a non-horsey family in the Devon village of Salcombe Regis, where her father is verger, King learnt to ride on the vicar's pony. When she was 11, she was taken to Badminton, at her insistence, and announced on the return trip that she wanted to become an event rider.

However, money was scarce and there was no "ready-made" pony for King to climb aboard, so her mother, Jill, managed to borrow ponies for her daughter to ride at the Axe Vale Pony Club. On leaving school, King went to the yard of Sheila Willcox, three times a Badminton winner and a renowned taskmaster. Hard graft over 2½ years with Willcox gave King the basic skills and tenacity to embark on an eventing career.

After a series of setbacks, financial relief came in the form of sponsorship by Carphone. Gill Robinson, then a director of the company, has supported King ever since. A win at Badminton in 1992 on King William fulfilled King's childhood ambition. Since then, a team gold medal at the 1994 world championships and two European team gold medals have firmly established her in the top echelons of the sport.

King has collaborated with her selfless former groom, Annie Collings, and gives humorous insights into the horses that have shaped her career. The handsome King William, brilliant across country, but a careless showjumper, is likened to Gregory Peck, the film star; Star Appeal, her 1996 Burghley winner, is "a thug" who "tries his heart out"; King Solomon, on which she won Blenheim last year, is "a mischief-maker with a touch of class".

But it is the tail-swishing King Boris, on which King won the British Open in 1990, for whom she retains the deepest affection. "I can never thank Boris enough for his courage and confidence ... he gave me the chance to learn so much and yet he was still learning himself."

The accompanying picture — one many superb glossy offerings — of Boris's horrific nosedive at the Normandy Bank at Badminton in 1988 testifies to that courage. The next year, he returned to Badminton and finished second.

Those in search of more cerebral reading should turn to Mary Wanless's thought-provoking *For The Good of the Horse*. Wanless, who has a degree in physics and lectures internationally on body-mind integration, has developed her own style of teaching riding, based on the need to minimise the stresses that riders inevitably place on the fit, stabled horse.

The advent of horse dentists, physiotherapists, chiropractors and other types of healers has brought about, Wanless feels, "a quiet revolution" in riding and horse care as approaches once labelled "alternative" are gradually becoming accepted. With 16 years of research behind it, this book, which includes chapters on dentistry, saddlery and farriery, offers a fascinating reappraisal of our whole approach to the handling and care of the horse.

☐ *All The Kings' Horses*, by Mary King and Annie Collings (David & Charles, £15.99).
☐ *For The Good of the Horse*, by Mary Wanless (Kenilworth Press, £19.95).

Home from the sea with some epic stories to tell

SAILING

by Edward Gorman

ANYONE already signed up for Sir Chay Blyth's next global race for amateurs in 2000 should read *On Equal Terms*, by Marina Cantacuzino, just to be absolutely sure that their money is going to be well spent and that the experience is one they will enjoy.

The book may be about the travails of the disabled crew aboard *Time & Tide* during the BT Global Challenge, which finished earlier this year, but many of the experiences and problems unflinchingly described in it apply equally to able-bodied crews.

Time & Tide's circumnavigation was a triumph for a crew many thought should not have been allowed even to attempt the race and much of the book deals with the struggles involved coping with disabilities ranging from a lost limb to diabetes.

The book also deals at length with the conflicts that quickly surfaced, the difficulties some of the crew had getting on with their skipper, James Hatfield, the frustration some felt about not being given a chance to helm the boat or learn how to sail properly and the resentment caused by differing views as to how hard they actually wanted to race their boat.

Some, notably Lesley Bowden, the long-suffering medic, also discovered what many professional sailors already know — that offshore ocean racing for long periods can be an uncomfortable, unglamorous and unpleasant business.

Cantacuzino has done a very thorough job, sketching detailed portraits of the many people who joined the boat at various stages and then charting the race in a readable narrative that draws on extensive interviews and diary accounts. The emphasis throughout is on the personalities and on the ever-changing balance between the strong and the weak, both physically and mentally.

Raphael Dinelli, the Frenchman rescued from certain death in the Southern Ocean by Pete Goss in this year's Vendée Globe single-handed round-the-world race, is an angry young man determined to show the French sailing establishment that he is good enough to race round the world. His book, *Rescue from Beyond the Roaring Forties*, is a generally well-translated account of how he ended up standing on the coach roof of a sinking *Algimouss* in freezing seas, while Goss beat through 70-knot headwinds to find him.

Here is Dinelli after standing for hours in the frozen water: "It was terrible and it just seemed to go on and on. Each wave that struck me choked and froze, working down inside my suit. I could feel my feet locking up with the cold. I started dancing on the flooded, swept deck to keep my circulation going. I must have seemed like a madman, that black night in the midst of a raging sea ..."

We have not heard the last of Dinelli, who has secured sponsorship to build a new Open 60 to campaign in next year's Around Alone race and then the Vendée in 2000. Perhaps in one of these marathons he will finally fulfill his dream.

☐ *On Equal Terms*, by Marina Cantacuzino (Simon & Schuster, £16.99).
☐ *Rescue from Beyond the Roaring Forties*, by Raphael Dinelli (Adlard Coles Nautical, £14.99).

Purist puts case in battle for soul of Viennese Waltz

DANCE SPORT

by Ruth Gledhill

ABOUT five million people go dancing in Great Britain each week, whether to compete or dance socially in traditional ballroom, the more recent salsa or in sequence and old time, but the literature available for them to read is surprisingly sparse. Even sparser is the field of books aimed at the modern dance sport competitor.

This is likely to change with the acceptance by the International Olympic Committee of dance sport as a fully-fledged Olympic event, through recognition of the International Dance Sport Federation, the Swiss-based amateur body. Early off the mark this Christmas is Harry Smith-Hampshire, the world's leading expert on the Viennese Waltz, with a book that is a must for all competitive dancers.

Smith-Hampshire, undefeated in the Viennese between winning the European professional championship in 1955 and his retirement from competition dancing in 1961, provides great technical detail. His book is likely to appeal mostly to those aiming for Olympic gold medals, although anyone in the competitive sphere would find it useful.

It comes at a time when the world of dance sport is torn over the Viennese, danced more often in competitions on the Continent than in Britain. Smith-Hampshire and other purists worldwide want the dance to remain restricted to four figures: the reverse and natural turns and the reverse and natural fleckerls, which are difficult, fast turns on the spot. They are engaged in heated debate with modernisers calling for lifts, curtsies and other figures to be introduced to add excitement and interest. However, the four standard competitive figures remain those authorised for competitive use and these are the ones Smith-Hampshire analyses.

Of all the five traditional ballroom dances, which have recently been unimaginatively renamed the standard dances, the Viennese is the most fun and most energetic to dance. Simply remaining upright can be a problem, due to the dizziness caused by the unceasing turns. For the novice female, remaining in a standing position is often achieved purely by clinging on for grim life to a partner.

While such a poise achieves zero marks on the competitive floor, it is in this style of social interaction that the dance has its origins. As Smith-Hampshire explains, the fleckerl, the foundation step of the Viennese, dates from centuries ago, to the robust alpine folk dances of Austria and Germany, when couples rotated on the spot in triple time, holding each other closely.

The speed of the dance — between 60 and 70 bars a minute — dictates that there can be no "rise and fall". Competitors who fail to maintain a shallow arc as they spin around the floor can too easily come to grief in a scrambled melée of legs and arms as, like a swaying suspension bridge, they lose control of themselves and their partners.

It is such disasters that Smith-Hampshire, with his detailed analysis of technique, is keen to avert.

☐ *The Viennese Waltz*, (Supadance, 159 Queens Road, Buckhurst Hill, Essex, IG9 5BA. £6.50 incl p&p.)

RACING: GREYSTOKE-BASED JOCKEY CLEARED TO RIDE AGAIN AFTER YEAR OF FRUSTRATION

Harding makes poignant return

BY CHRIS MCGRATH

IT IS a natural enough conclusion, watching them ply their dangerous trade, that jump jockeys need their brains tested. In the unhappy case of Brian Harding, who ends 12 months of frustration at Musselburgh today, precisely such a scan was a necessity last week before the Jockey Club would finally allow him back his licence.

A year ago today, Harding fractured his skull in a fall at Newcastle. The next thing he remembers was seeing his girlfriend on Christmas morning, and after that watching One Man's success in the King George VI Chase the following day. The grey is trained by Gordon Richards, for whom Harding had been cultivating a reputation for horsemanship as second jockey to Tony Dobbin — notably with consecutive wins on McGregor The Third in the Cross Country Chase at Cheltenham.

Harding's recuperation was encouraged by the prospect of riding either The Grey Monk or Addington Boy in the Gold Cup. Three weeks before the race, the Irishman saw a consultant, expecting clearance for his return to the saddle. Instead, he was told that — since a 30-second tremor in one of his legs after the fall had been construed as "a fit" — he would be banned from racing for 12 months.

"It came as a total shock," Harding, 25, said yesterday. "Since then, I sometimes thought the year would never end. Apart from cursing doctors, I have just been working as a stable lad and trying to keep fit and riding out since the summer.

"I got married in June and went on honeymoon to the Dominican Republic, and went home to County Cork for a while. I'm as fit as I can be, though race-riding fitness is something else and I'll no doubt need my first outing, like a heavy horse. The guv'nor has been brilliant, stuck his neck out and argued my cause. But now I'm just glad it's over."

Richards and his protege sought — and found — a second opinion, but could not persuade the Jockey Club to review the case. Nor was he even permitted to return after 362 of his 365 days off to ride The Grey Monk at Haydock last Saturday. Richards, who considers Harding's treatment "disgraceful", has promised him good mounts of that ilk, though today's is an outside ride. Delightfool in the Table Maiden Hurdle.

In the event, The Grey Monk would have been a thoroughly exhausting conveyance. Peter Niven had to push him along as he idled in front in the back straight, and more vigorously still on the run-in to see off Rough Quest, who was spared a hard race on his return from injury.

Another of Greystoke's staying chasers will be in action on Saturday, with Unguided Missile on course for the Betterware Cup at Ascot, a race he won under a memorable ride from Richard Dunwoody two years ago. Go Ballistic, who beat Unguided Missile in last year's running, was also among yesterday's 14 five-day entries, though he has the option of the Smurfit Long Walk Hurdle on the same card.

Large Action will at last be tried over a trip in this race, having confirmed that he no longer has enough dash for the Champion last weekend. He faded two out to finish well beaten on his comeback behind Relkeel in the Bula Hurdle, but may get closer to the runner-up, Pridwell, over this extra mile.

Ferdy Murphy, having watched French Holly confirm himself a rising star at Haydock on Saturday, unleashes an established one in Paddy's Return in the same race, which may also provide an unconventional platform for Algan's attempt to win a second King George VI Chase. The French horse was a fortunate winner in 1994, when Barton Bank fell at the last.



JULIAN HERBERT

Algan, a fortunate winner of the 1994 King George VI Chase, warms up for Kempton again with a run over hurdles at Ascot on Saturday

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: Koo's Promise
(1.40 Hereford)

Koo's Promise was in season and did not enjoy the soft ground at Haydock recently. She should be more at home around this course on better ground and looks well handicapped.

Next best: Pavlova
(1.00 Folkestone)

FOLKESTONE

THUNDERER

12.30 MUSEUM (nap)	2.00 Angelo's Double
1.00 Northern Village	2.30 Morgans Hill
1.30 Quistaquay	3.00 Court Master
	3.30 Pointed Remark

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robertson) B Hall 12-0 B West (7) 68

Racecard number Six-figure form (F — fell, P — pulled up, U — unseated rider, B — brought down, S — slipped up, R — refused, D — disqualified) Horse's name Days since last outing, F if flat (B — blinkers, V — visor, H — hood, E — Eyeshield, C — course winner, D — distance winner, CD — course and distance winner, 6F — beaten favourite in latest race) Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard, G — good, S — soft, good to soft, heavy) Owner in brackets Trainer Age and weight Rider plus any allowance The Times Timekeepers speed rating

GOING: GOOD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

12.30 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,301 2m 1f 110yd) (7 runners)

101	P5-PP21	AINSI SOIT II, 10 (B,C,G,S) (A-Men Partnership) G McCourt 6-11-10	D Bridgwater	106
102	42245-1	AUGUST TWELFTH 12 (CD,B,S) (D O Brien) D O'Brien 9-11-1	Mr S Durack (5)	99
103	00F645-	FERRERS 272 (BF,D,G) (J Butt) Mrs P Sly 6-11-0	W Marston	94
104	2012-45	MUSEUM 10 (BF,CD,S) (R Barber & R Bailey) P Winkworth 6-11-0	M A Fitzgerald	99
105	71-3F02	COME ON PENNY 6 (F) (A Finch) D Sandbrook 9-10-13	G Bradley	102
106	042P1-0	STORM TIGER 17 (G) (R F Partnership) S Mellor 6-10-7	C Webb (5)	92
107	UP33P5/	LITTLE NOD 589P (D,F) (D Pottel) J R Best 8-10-0	R Thornton	--

Long handicap: Little Nod 9-8

BETTING: 9-4 August Twelfth, 3-1 Ainsi Soit II, 7-2 Museum, 9-2 Come On Penny, 12-1 Ferrers, 14-1 others

1996 ZINGIBAR 4-10-6 N Williamson (5-1) J Bradley 4 ran

FORM FOCUS Ainsi Soit II beat Be Brave 19l fr, 10-runner handicap hurdle at Towcester (2m, good to soft) with Museum (6lb better off) 18l 5th. August Twelfth beat Cabochon 3l in 12-runner handicap hurdle at Windsor (2m 4f, good) with Come On Penny (11lb better off) 32l 6th. Ferrers 13l 5th of 9 to Dissolve in novice handicap hurdle at Towcester (2m, good to firm). Come On Penny 25½l 2nd of 5 to Secret Bid in handicap hurdle at Leicester (2m, soft). Storm Tiger 40l 9th of 13 to Elhamzio in handicap hurdle at Warwick (2m, good to soft), previously beat Fontanays 73l1 in 17-runner handicap hurdle at Windsor (2m, good). Little Nod pulled up in hunter chase at Huntingdon (2m 4f 110yd, good to firm), previously 6l 2nd of 9 to Ather in novice hurdle at Newton Abbot (2m 1f, good to soft).

AINSI SOIT II can confirm Towcester running with Museum

1.00 HEATHFIELD HANDICAP CHASE (£4,625: 3m 2f) (7 runners)

201	U1410P/	SILVERFORT LAD 631 (D,G,S) (A Wates) T Casey 8-12-0	M A Fitzgerald	--
202	5U200-0	BIG BEN DUN 21 (CD,F,G,S) (Miss N Carroll) E L James 11-11-12	J R Kavanagh	125
203	UP-4232	SECRET BID 15 (F) (Droc Partners) R Alner 7-11-2	A Thornton	112
204	3163-P4	NORTHERN VILLAGE 15 (F) (L Duce) L A Dace 10-11-2	D Gallagher	107
205	F3/2F3-	GREY GORDEN 377 (6,S) (Eschwell Manor) T Mccarthy 9-10-12	G Bradley	--
206	U144-U5	PAVLOVA 15 (S) (Mrs M McAlone) R Rowe 7-10-12	C Llewellyn	104
207	0448/	MASTER HOPEFULL 685 (M Padfield) C Morlock 8-10-0	J A McCarthy	--

Long handicap: Master Hopefull 9-5

BETTING: 5-4 Secret Bid, 4-1 Northern Village, 7-1 Pavlova, Big Ben Dun, 10-1 Silverfort Lad, 12-1 others

1996 BALLY CLOVER 9-11-12 N Williamson (7-4 fav) Miss J Williams 10 ran

FORM FOCUS Silverfort Lad pulled up in handicap chase at Fontwell (3m 2f 110yd, good to soft) Big Ben Dun 47l 7th of 9 to Sophie May in handicap chase at Worcester (2m 7f 110yd, soft) Secret Bid 2l 2nd of 9 to Dream Leader in handicap chase at Folkestone (3m 2f, good) with Northern Village (5lb better off) 16l 4th and Pavlova (5lb better off) 36l 5th. Grey Gorden 18l 3rd of 8 to Flaked Oats in novice chase at Fontwell (3m 2f 110yd, good). Master Hopefull 27l 6th of 17 to Sample Simon in novice hurdle at Stratford (2m 6f 110yd, good to firm)

SECRET BID has good chance on recent course and distance effort

1.30 SELLINDGE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,364: 2m 6f 110yd) (8 runners)

301	40/P-21	EURO FORUM 15 (CD,S) (J Dunsdon) J Gifford 5-12-0	S Laird (6)	125
302	31-4124	QUISTAQUAY 10 (BF,S) (D Barr) J Mullins 5-10-12	David Turner (6)	115
303	031P-U4	MILLMOUNT 13 (B,CD,S) (T Breen) T McGovern 7-10-11	R Thornton	119
304	4021-U0	SLEEPTITE 19 (F) (C & S Brasher) Miss H Knight 7-10-8	J Power	85
305	FF111-2	CARACOL 18 (C,G,S) (C Bolton) J Neville 8-10-7	T Dascombe	118
306	43/300	MOST WELCOME NEWS 20 (A Reid) G L Moore 5-10-3	M Batchelor (3)	102
307	510P4/P	KREEF 12 (G) (H J S Racing) R Curtis 5-10-0	J Parthouse (3)	--
308	66/0-PP	SURGICAL SPIRIT 84 (B Lee) B Pearce 7-10-0	J Goldstein (3)	--

Long handicap: Kreef 9-10, Surgical Spirit 7-10

BETTING: 9-4 Euro Forum, 5-2 Quistaquay, 3-1 Caracol, 6-1 Millmount, 12-1 Sleeptite, 16-1 others

1996 NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS Euro Forum beat Mr Chataway 3l in 5-runner conditional novice hurdle at Folkestone (2m 6f 110yd, good to soft) Quistaquay 15l 4th of 12 to Jet Flies in novice hurdle at Towcester (2m 5f, good). Millmount 11l 4th of 10 to None Starred in handicap hurdle at Fontwell (2m 6f 110yd, soft). Sleeptite 44l last of 8 to Frontier Flight in handicap hurdle at Taunton (2m 3f 110yd, good) Caracol 9l 2nd of 8 to Riverbank Rose in handicap hurdle at Bangor (2m 1f, good to soft)

EURO FORUM looks capable of completing a double over the course and distance

2.00 TOTE NOVICES CHASE (Qualifier: £4,450. 2m 5f) (8 runners)

401	/651-44	WHO AM I 21 (BF,S) (H Wellstead) R Alner 7-11-5	A Thornton	108
402	3/212-6	ANGELO'S DOUBLE 17 (D,G,S) (J Heywood) R Buckler 9-10-12	B Powell	140
403	UP05P-6	BENJI 13 (A Jackson) T Casey 6-10-12	W Marston	58
404	46030-4	CHINA MAIL 121 (F) (Merlin Syndicate) J Bennett 5-10-12	D J Kavanagh (5)	--
405	2P4P-62	DARING KING 15 (F,S) (Cleeve Stables) M Bolton 7-10-12	T Dascombe	100
406	313-23P	KILLEANEY CARR 13 (F) (Miss J Semple) J Gifford 6-10-12	P Hide	--
407	0P111-9	SIR DANTE 12 (BF,F,G) (P Wilby) R Rowe 6-10-12	D Bridgwater	109
408	1/140-0	SLEETMORE GALE 21 (F,G) (D Walsh) T McGovern 7-10-7	J A McCarthy	101

BETTING: 4-5 Angelo's Double, 4-1 Sir Dante, 7-1 Who Am I, 10-1 Killeaney Carr, Daring King, 20-1 others

1996: MELVIK 5-10-12 C Maude (9-1) Mrs A Perren 10 ran

FORM FOCUS Who Am I 57s1 4th of 8 to Dancemyroadtop in novice handicap chase at Worcester (2m 4f 110yd, soft) with Sleetmore Gale (16lb better off) 35l 7th. Angelo's Double beaten a distance 6th of 8 to Go-Informal in hurdle grade 2 at Newbury (3m 110yd, soft) previously 23l 2nd of 3 to Lively Knight in novice chase at Plumpton (2m 5f, good to soft) Benji 48l 6th of 9 to Glendoe in novice handicap chase at Fontwell (2m 2f, good to soft). China Mail 74s1 4th of 6 to Spirit Level in selling handicap hurdle at Newton Abbot (3m 3f, good to firm) Daring King 7l 2nd of 8 to Antonio Manano in novice handicap chase at Folkestone (2m, good) Killeaney Carr pulled up in novice chase at Fontwell (3m 2f 110yd, good to soft) Sir Dante 30l 7th of 8 to Nashville Star in handicap chase at Windsor (2m, good), previously beat Silver Thyne 14l in 9-runner novice grade III handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 4f, good to firm)

ANGELO'S DOUBLE looks a cut above these rival

2.30 LYMPNE NOVICES HURDLE (£2,490: 2m 6f 110yd) (12 runners)

501	024-61	CHEEKY CHARLIE 15 (CD,G) (P Collins) G L Moore 5-11-5	D Gallagher	108
502	/PPF1/5	CASH FOR BASH 20 (G) (Capt A Pratt) R Rowe 7-10-12	D Bridgwater	90
503	3421U-0	CHARLIE HAWES 20 (S) (Silver Knight Exhibitions) S Mellor 8-10-12	C Webb (5)	--
504	30-2	FIN BEC 67 (A fung) A P Jones 4-10-12	S McNeill	--
505	4P-	LORD ELLANGOWAN 301F (B) (Ellangowan Pines) R Ingram 4-10-12	R Thornton	--
506	5	MORGANS HILL 41 (Mrs J Bishop) D Sherwood 5-10-12	C Llewellyn	--
507	F1-	OLD DECENCY 324P (S) (M Blackburn) N Henderson 6-10-12	M A Fitzgerald	--
508	P2-	ROCKHOLM LAD 298F (Mrs J Grist) D Gressel 5-10-12	J R Kavanagh	--
509	03-	SALAMAN 306 (Mrs V O'Brien) D O'Brien 5-10-12	G Bradley	118
510	B-	SMART GUY 277 (Mrs P Dunford) Mrs L Jewell 5-10-12	D Leahy	--
511	5-4	TAPPERS KNAPP 20 (N Chamberlain) D Sherwood 5-10-12	J A McCarthy	106
512	5045-P2	BE MY MOT 7 (R Winchester & Son) D Gressel 5-10-7	B Fenton	80

BETTING: 5-2 Cheeky Charlie, 4-1 Tappers Knapp, 9-2 Old Decency, 8-1 Salaman, 10-1 Fin Bec, Morgans Hill, 12-1 Be My Mot, 14-1 others

1996 ROUSH QUEST 10-10-12 M A Fitzgerald (5-1) T Casey 14 ran

FORM FOCUS Cheeky Charlie beat Cabochon 15l1 in 8-runner handicap hurdle at Folkestone (2m 6f 110yd, good) Fin Bec 9l 2nd of 18 to Gaffkin in NH flat race at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, good) Lord Ellangowan pulled up in novice hurdle at Lingfield (2m 3f 110yd, soft) previously 84s1 4th of 10 to The Legions Pride in novice hurdle at Fontwell (2m 2f 110yd, good to firm) Morgans Hill 37l 5th of 11 to Scoring Pedigree in novice hurdle at Kempton (2m 5f, good to firm) Salaman 17l 3rd of 12 to Friendship in novice hurdle at Windsor (2m 6f 110yd, good) Smart Guy 80l 15th of 16 to Sunday Venture in NH flat race at Folkestone (2m 1f 110yd, good) Tappers Knapp 17l 4th of 15 to Mad Harry in novice hurdle at Windsor (2m 4f, good) with Cash For Bash (levels) 34l 5th and Charlie Hawes (levels) 48l 10th. Be My Mot 15l 2nd of 7 to Fartadet V in novice hurdle at Plumpton (2m 4f, soft)

CHEEKY CHARLIE should be able to put his recent winning form here to good use

3.00 SHADDOXHURST HANDICAP CHASE (£2,768 2m) (7 runners)

601	02R1R-1	FRIENDLY KNIGHT 20 (D,F,G,S) (M Johnson) Mrs A E Johnson 7-12-0	G Bradley	107
602	10443-P	COURT MASTER 18 (D,S) (Mrs T Lewis) R Buckler 9-11-12	B Powell	101
603	134-000	RICHU 12 (D,F,S) (B Seal & The Sioux Pines) Mr L Richards 9-11-2	M Richards	88
604	1056-46	PEGMARINE 30 (CD,B,S) (Mrs A Woodrow) Mrs A Woodrow 14-10-0	J A McCarthy	91
605	3/6-U40	THURGOL 13 (G,S) (C Cornwell) R Rowe 9-10-0	A Garrity (7)	91
606	00-F6	GEORGETOWN 7 (Parella Tapes & Conversions Ltd) J Gifford 6-10-0	P Hide	--
607	/05U-4P	ONE MORE MAN 13 (B) (A Bailey) Miss L Bowes 9-10-0	Mr R Walley (5)	--

Long handicap: Georgetown 9-12, One More Man 9-4

BETTING: 11-8 Friendly Knight, 7-4 Court Master, 8-1 Thurgol, 12-1 Richu, Georgetown, 14-1 others

1996: PEGMARINE 13-11-7 G Hogan (13-2) Mrs A Woodrow 7 ran

FORM FOCUS Friendly Knight beat Lobster Cottage 3l in 7-runner handicap chase at Windsor (2m, good to firm) with Pegmarine (14lb better off) 31l 6th. Court Master pulled up in novice handicap hurdle at Newbury (2m 5f, soft), previously 84s1 3rd of 12 to Mr Playfull in handicap chase at Exeter (2m 3f 110yd, good) Richu beaten a distance last of 8 to Nashville Star in handicap chase at Windsor (2m, good) Thurgol 48l 7th of 9 to Glendoe in novice handicap chase at Fontwell (2m 2f, good to soft). Georgetown 62l 6th of 8 to Get Real in novice handicap chase at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, good) FRIENDLY KNIGHT can win this if he puts his best foot forward

3.30 WEATHERBYS STARS OF TOMORROW OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,256: 2m 1f 110yd) (12 runners)

1	3/01/	POINTED REMARK 591 (G) (P Winkworth) N Henderson 6-11-11	M A Fitzgerald	--
2		ANMARINAN (C G H Syndicate) T Casey 5-11-4	D Gallagher	--
3		BILLY MOONSHINE (Graham Haupt) D Gressell 5-11-4	J R Kavanagh	--
4		CHAR'S PROFILES (Exterior Profiles Ltd) Miss N George 4-11-4	D Bridgwater	--
5	D-	CLOUDY BILL 220 (Ed Howard) Mrs H Knight 5-11-4	J Culloty	--
6		COUGAR RUN (Mrs C Zeller-Wells) L Wells 6-11-4	M Richards	--
7	26-	DITOPERO 399 (BF) (The Ditopero Partnership) R Buckler 5-11-4	B Powell	--
8		HERONSHILL (Harry Hawkins Partnership) L Dace 5-11-4	W Greatrex (7)	--
9		MERRY SHOT (R S Evans Late E Hitchens) Mrs J Pitman 5-11-4	R Farrant	--
10	002-	MUALLAK 251 (Mrs A Woodrow) Mrs A Woodrow 5-11-4	A Thornton	--
11		TAKE IT EASY (B Stewart-Brown) D Sherwood 5-11-4	J A McCarthy	--
12		MAYBE LATER (Mrs K Curtis) R Curtis 5-10-13	J Parthouse (7)	--

BETTING: 5-2 Pointed Remark, 3-1 Take It Easy, 5-1 Merry Shot, 6-1 Ditopero, 7-1 Cloudy Bill, 12-1 others

1996: GUIDO 5-11-4 N Williamson (12-1) Miss V Williams 17 ran

FORM FOCUS Pointed Remark beat Arctic Fusilier 4l in 16-runner maiden NH flat race at Ditcheter (2m, good) Anmarinan Salco gelding, half-brother to Flat and hurdles winner Texan Cowboy. Billy Moonshine Nicholas Bill gelding out of hurdles winner Indian Moonshine Char's Profiles Royal Vulcan gelding, brother to winning Bumper Denise's Profiles. Cloudy Bill 90l 15th of 16 to Conchobor in national hunt flat race at Worcester (2m, good to soft) Cougar Run Commanche Run gelding, half-brother to a winning pointer Ditopero 76l last of 6 to Poppy's Dream in NH flat race at Ludlow (2m, good to firm); previously 14s1 2nd of 7 to Danzante in NH flat race at Warwick (2m, good to firm), Merry Shot Cataldi gelding, first foal of an unraced mare. Muallak 6l 2nd of 12 to Diamond Hall in NH flat race at Chepstow (2m 110yd, firm) Take It Easy Orchestra gelding out of a lightly-raced mare

POINTED REMARK returns after a long absence but has ability

COURSE SPECIALISTS

MUSSELBURGH: Trainers: M Hammond, 31 winners from 118 runners, 26.3%; Mrs M Reveley, 12 from 51, 23.5%; N Tinkler, 8 from 34, 23.5%; C Parker, 11 from 47, 23.4%; P Monteith, 15 from 76, 19.7%; J Bardsley, 3 from 17, 17.6%. Jockeys: P Carberry, 10 winners from 34 rides, 29.4%; R Garritty, 10 from 47, 21.3%; P Niven, 13 from 64, 20.3%; J Callaghan, 7 from 41, 17.1%; M Foster, 3 from 19, 15.8%; A S Smith 5 from 33, 15.2%.

HEREFORD: Trainers: Miss V Williams, 5 winners from 9 runners, 55.6%; N Chance, 3 from 8, 37.5%; C Mann, 3 from 8, 37.5%; M Pipe, 39 from 116, 33.6%; P Hobbs, 14 from 67, 20.9%; P Nicholls, 9 from 44, 20.5%. Jockeys: A P McCoy, 26 winners from 85 rides, 30.6%; R Dunwoody, 14 from 57, 24.6%; N Williamson, 10 from 60, 16.7%; C Maude, 7 from 47, 14.9%; G Hogan, 4 from 32, 12.5%; G Tormey, 3 from 24, 12.5%; D J Burchell, 5 from 45, 11.1%.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Musselburgh: 2.50 Uk Hygiene, 2.50 Wild Brook. Folkestone: 3.00 One More Man

RACING AHEAD

Robert Wright suggests the best value in the ante-post market

CORAL WELSH NATIONAL
Chepstow, December 27

GUIDE TO THE LEADING PRICES

	Coral	Hills	Ladbrokes	Tote
Cyborgo	5-1	5-1	5-1	5-1
Bells Life	8-1	8-1	8-1	8-1
Indian Tracker	8-1	8-1	8-1	8-1
Samlee	8-1	10-1	8-1	8-1
Banjo	8-1	10-1	10-1	10-1
What A Hand	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1
Eudipe	12-1	10-1	10-1	10-1
Belmont King	10-1	12-1	10-1	10-1
General Wolfe	14-1	16-1	16-1	14-1
Celtic Abbey	16-1	14-1	20-1	16-1
Call It A Day	20-1	14-1	20-1	20-1
Kamikaze	20-1	16-1	16-1	16-1

CYBORGO, whose only defeat in five starts over fences came on unsuitably fast ground in the Cheltenham Gold Cup, remains unexposed and will take all the beating in the Coral Welsh National at Chepstow.

Lack of a run this term should be no problem for the Martin Pipe-trained seven-year-old. Pipe, a master at getting his horses fit, saddled Cyborgo to win the Sleepers' Hurdle at Cheltenham on his only run of the 1995-96 season.

The ground at Chepstow in December is invariably on the soft side, which will suit, and this race has been his target for some time. CYBORGO, significantly rated a 5-1 chance by Ladbrokes, is likely to be a warm favourite in 24 days' time and should be backed at 7-1 with Coral or Hills.

There are question marks over most of his rivals. Bells Life leapt to prominence in the testing ground to finish a promising third to Senor El Betrutti in the Tripleprint Gold Cup at Cheltenham on Saturday, but is far from certain to stay another mile at Chepstow.

Indian Tracker, another Pipe entry, made much of the running when second to See More Business in the Rehearsal Chase over three miles at Chepstow (Banjo a staying-on third), but is another whose stamina is not proven.

Samlee earned a 4lb penalty for winning a four-runner race at Sandown, but takes a long time to warm up and will find it harder to make ground up in this more competitive contest.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Warwick

Going: good

12.20 (2m hdle) 1. Virtuose (R Dunwoody, 13-8 fav) 2. Keen Dancer (12-1), 3. Tough Act (5-1). 20 ran. NR: Bequet-De-Bouche, Rainbow Star. 5, 7. C Mann Tote: £2.20, £1.40, £5.40, £2.10. DF: £21.20. Trio: £19.10. CSF: £16.66.

12.55 (2m hdle) 1. Truancy (Mr K R O'Brien, 5-1), 2. Swarn (9-2), 3. Shepherds Point (11-1). 11 ran. Neat Again (11-8 fav) 6 ran. NK, 4. C Mann. Tote: £6.50, £2.30, £1.80. DF: £16.30. CSF: £39.46.

1.25 (3m 2f ch) 1. Ideal Partner (M A Fitzgerald, 16-1), 2. Herhorse (5-1), 3. Man Of The Match (5-1). Denham Hill (11 events fav, 8 ran). Shrhd dist. P Nicholls. Tote: £11.30, £1.70, £1.10, £1.70. DF: £10.80. CSF: £78.38.

1.55 (2m 3f hdle) 1. Vitaman (R Farrant, 16-1), 2. Lone Cat Conquest (11-4 fav), 3. Charmer's Rise. 5(5-1). 9 ran. Hk, dist. Mrs J Pitman. Tno: £64.50.

2.30 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1. Even Flow (M A Fitzgerald, 7-4 fav), 2. Merrie Joe (25-1), 3. Fairground, 7-4 fav). 5 ran. 3l, 3l. T Casey (Lad). Tote: £2.70, £1.50, £2.30. DF: £33.70. CSF: £23.34.

3.00 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1. Cool Spring (A Thornton, 14-1), 2. Miss Breckett (14-1), 3. Tawny Warrior (25-1). Melody Maid (fell). Tawny Warrior (25-1) 9 ran. 1½l, 10l. T Forster. Tote: £15.50, £4.50, £2.60, £5.30. DF: £50.30. CSF: £78.38.

CSF: £172.36. Trio: £423.80 (part won. Pool of £477.59 carried forward to Hereford 3.40 today).

3.30 (2m 3f hdle) 1. Ernest William (Michael Brennan, 10-1), 2. Recall (7-1), 3. Young Tycoon (50-1). 4. Ela-Yie-Mou (8-1). Shadrawan 5-2 fav. 18 ran. 15l, hd. G Hubbard. Tote: £15.80, £3.80, £1.70, £12.00. £2.30. DF: £61.40. CSF: £79.07. Tricast: £3,156.95. Trio: £1,577.40 (part won. Pool of £244.40 carried forward to Hereford 3.40 today).

Jackpot: not won (pool of £3,640.28 carried forward to Folkestone today).

Placepot: £1,248.10. Quadpot: £253.90.

Newcastle

Going: good

12.40 (2m 4f hdle) 1. Noble Norman (P Niven, 66-1); 2. Tom's River (12-1); 3. Ardent Scout (3-1) Hopeful Lord 8-13 fav. 13 ran. Nk, 12l. Mrs M Reveley. Tote: £18.20, £3.30, £2.50, £1.20. DF: £36.70. Trio: £56.80. CSF: £629.49.

1.15 (3m chl) 1. Radical Choice (B Storey, 5-1), 2. Purevalue (5-4 fav), 3. Made Of Steel (20-1). 9 ran. Dist, 22l. J Charlton. Tote: £3.50; £1.80, £1.80, £3.90. DF: £5.30. Trio: £49.20. CSF: £10.54.

1.45 (2m hdle) 1. Dan De Man (M Foster, 6-1); 2. General's Orders (14-1); 3. Boyzonatoowa (3-1). Common Sound 9-4 fav. 10 ran. 8l, 1¼l. Miss L Siddall. Tote: £9.40; £2.70, £2.40, £1.50. DF: £40.10. CSF: £78.02. Tricast: £277.32. Trio: £114.50 (part won. Pool of £16.14 carried forward to Hereford 3.40 today).

2.15 (2m 4f hdle) 1. Double Agent (P Carberry, 3-1 fav. Thunderer's nap); 2. Great Easeby (5-1), 3. Marchant Ming (5-1) 5 ran. NK, 1l. H Johnson. Tote: £3.30; £1.20, £2.90. DF: £6.20. CSF: £10.77.

2.50 (2m 4f ch) 1. Corston Joker (R Supple, evens fav); 2. Crosshot (4-1), 3. Kenmore-Speed (4-1). 4 ran. 2½l, dist. L Longo. Tote: £1.80. DF: £3.30. CSF: £4.65.

3.20 (2m hdle) 1. Alpine Panther (P Niven, 9-4); 2. Vadiaways (6-4 fav), 3. Doctor Bravous (25-1). 12 ran. 4l, 2l. Mrs M Reveley. Tote: £3.60; £1.20, £1.30, £5.70. DF: £4.90. Trio: £72.80. CSF: £5.95.

Placepot: £75.70. Quadpot: £12.30.

Newton Abbot

Going: heavy

12.30 (2m 110yd ch) 1. Well Timed (J Frost, 6-1); 2. Thursday Night (9-2); 3. Robins Pride (6-1). Indian Arrow (4th) 2-1 fav. 9 ran. Hd, 13l. R Frost. Tote: £5.10; £1.90, £1.50, £2.20. DF: £19.30. Trio: £81.70. CSF: £31.85. Tricast: £154.89.

1.05 (2m 1f hdle) 1. Sunley Secure (Mr S Durack, 3-1); 2. Perfect Pal (11-1); 3. Alpine Joker (4-1). Ultimate Smoothie (4th) 9-4 fav. 11 ran. 2½l, 5l. N Chance. Tote: £3.10; £1.20, £2.90, £2.30. DF: £30.30. Trio: £47.30. CSF: £29.68. Tricast: £124.20.

1.35 (2m 5f 110yd ch) 1. Supreme Lady (J F Titley, evens fav); 2. Pearl's Choice (7-1); 3. Fonyboy Dee (16-1). 10 ran. 1¼l, 13l. Miss H Knight. Tote: £1.90; £1.30, £1.40, £2.80. DF: £7.30. Trio: £18.50. CSF: £8.28.

2.05 (2m 5f 110yd ch) 1. Hold Your Ranks (J Frost, 2-1 fav); 2. Red Lighter (9-4); 3. Jailbreaker (7-1). 8 ran. 5l, 21l. R Frost. Tote: £3.80; £1.60, £1.10, £1.80. DF: £4.20. CSF: £6.82. Tricast: £22.80.

2.40 (3m 3f hdle) 1. Belmorebruno (A P McCoy, 4-5 fav); 2. Saxon Duke (5-2); 3. Spirit Level (20-1). 7 ran. 1¼l, 16l. M Pipe. Tote: £1.70; £1.10, £1.80. DF: £2.00. CSF: £2.81.

3.10 (2m 1f hdle) 1. Effectual (S Kelly, 7-2); 2. Nun Rash (7-4); 3. Eastdon Gold Dust (16-1). Galapino 6-5 fav. 5 ran. Dist, dist. Miss V Williams. Tote: £4.70; £1.10, £2.00. DF: £4.40. CSF: £9.61.

3.40 (2m 1f flat) 1. Mister Sandrovitch (A P McCoy, 8-11 fav); 2. Miss Approach (15-2); 3. Our Man Flin (9-1). 12 ran. NR: Winning Town. 5l, 1¼l. Miss V Williams. Tote: £1.70; £1.30, £2.50, £1.40. DF: £11.50. Trio: £8.80. CSF: £6.54.

Placepot: £12.80. Quadpot: £2.80.



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	COMMENTARY	RESULTS
FOLKESTONE	101	201
HEREFORD	102	202
MUSSELB'GH	103	203

FULL RESULTS SERVICE 168

HEREFORD

THUNDERER

1.10 Jaquies Glen. 1.40 Koo's Promise. 2.10 Play Games. 2.40 Nomax Lad. 3.10 Lancastrian Jet. 3.40 Moonlighter.

Timekeeper's top rating:
1.40 JASON'S BOY.

GOING: GOOD SIS

1.10 COWSLIP SELLING HURDLE
(£1,912: 2m 1f) (11 runners)

1	22-0	AAL EL AAL 22 (D,S) P Hobbs 10-10-12	G Tormey	59
2	0-00	ADMIRALTY WAY 20 (CD,6,S) R Brotherton 11-10-12	L Harvey	90
3	56/5	FERRUFINO 66 (D,F) P Rich 9-10-12	M Griffiths (7)	84
4	40U83	INCHYDONEY BOY 27 Z C Davison 9-10-12	A Ivory (7)	80
5	0/6/	MALIHABAD 801 (D,G,S) R Hollinshead 6-10-12	Gary Lyons	--
6	FPP-	OFFICE HOURS 246F R Baker 5-10-12	Mr H Oliver (7)	--
7	00-0	RED TIME 19 M Saunders 4-10-12	I Lawrence	46
8	6465Z	SOLDIER COVE 11 D Burchell 7-10-12	D J Burchell	100
9	0	XENOPHON OF CUNAXA 8 B Llewellyn 4-10-12	Michael Brennan (3)	--
10	0154	JAQUES GLEN 15 (D,6) P Hobbs 4-10-7	Mr R Widger (7)	58
11	PPP-	NABURN LOCH 175F D Hyde 7-10-7	Mr J Tizzard (5)	--

6-4 Jaquies Glen, 9-2 Soldier Cove, 5-1 Aal El Aal, 13-2 Inchydoney Boy, 7-1 Ferrufino, 14-1 Admiralty Way, 16-1 Xenophon Of Cunaxa, 20-1 others

1.40 THYNE HANDICAP CHASE
(£2,749: 2m 3f) (5)

1	P61-	SHREWD JOHN 316 (F,6,S) Mrs D Thomas 11-12-0	Guy Lewis (3)	109
2	-231	JASON'S BOY 11 (CD,F,6,S) J Bradley 7-11-3	R Johnson	118
3	/F3U	SHIMBA HILLS 11 (BF,S) 6 McCourt 9-11-2	D J Moffatt	111
4	5-2U	KOO'S PROMISE 17 (F,6) C Popham 8-11-0	N Williamson	112
5	04P-	SALCOMBE HARBOUR 271 (6,S) P Pritchard 13-10-0	P Pritchard	103

10-11 Jason's Boy,

FOOTBALL

Kendall turns to Rosler after exchange deal fails

BY DAVID MADDOCK

HOWARD KENDALL, the Everton manager, confirmed yesterday that he will enter the transfer market before the weekend in an attempt to avert the deepening troubles at the club. In particular, Kendall is desperately searching for a forward who can end a goal drought that has seen his side fail to score in their past four games or record a win for two months.

After a day of frenzied activity, it appeared that Kendall had failed to persuade Derby County to lower their valuation of Dean Sturridge as part of an exchange deal involving Andy Hinchcliffe, Everton's England defender.

Instead, Kendall turned his attention to Manchester City and Uwe Rösler, a previous target. "Rest assured, I will be working this week trying to do some transfer business, hopefully in time for the game at Leicester this Saturday," he said.

"We are exploring all possibilties, we are looking at home and abroad and all types of deals, we need to start scoring goals and I have to look. Everyone is well aware of the areas where we need to improve. We need to be more creative in midfield and get more goals.

"Everybody would like a proven goalscorer in their team, but it's very difficult to find them and, when you do identify one, it's very difficult to persuade clubs to let them go."

The decision to pursue Rösler once more illustrates perfectly the financial contraints that have dragged the club to the foot of the FA Carling Premiership. At a heated annual meeting last week, Peter Johnson, the Everton chairman, explained that he had spent more than any other Premiership club over the past three seasons in an attempt to return Everton to their position of prominence of the Eighties.

"There is only so much money we can make available," Johnson said. "If we need new players, then the manager will have to look at his squad and devise means of bringing in the players we require."

That was taken as a clear indication that Kendall would have to sell before he could buy, but the Everton supporters have expressed their outrage that it seems that leading figures such as Hinchcliffe, Gary Speed, Nick Barmby and even Duncan Ferguson are the ones to be made available.

Kendall attempted to pacify them with his deal to get Sturridge and ease a problem that has seen Danny Cadamarteri, the teenage forward, used as the only possible replacement for the suspended Ferguson.

Derby valued Sturridge at £8 million and required £4 million plus Hinchcliffe to complete the deal. Despite efforts to resurrect the transfer yesterday, Kendall does not have that sort of money and was forced to turn his inquiries towards Maine Road instead, where hemay have better luck. Rösler has yet to sign a new contract and becomes a free agent in the summer, when he could move without City receiving a fee. That has seen his price slashed from £2 million to a more affordable, for Everton, £750,000.

Rösler is keen to stay in England and return to the Premiership, where he made such an impact with City in his first season, when he scored 20 goals and became an instant favourite with the City supporters. After falling out with Alan Ball, the manager who replaced Brian Horton, who signed Rösler, the German forward became unsettled. He has made infrequent appearances this season. Kendall sees Rösler as the perfect solution to his situation. He is a proven goalscorer and, more importantly, would be welcomed by unhappy supporters for his enthusiasm.

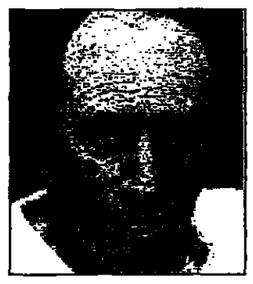
The feeling persists, however, that time is running out for Kendall, who was only appointed in July. Johnson has told him that he must produce results on the limited resources available and that other managers, such as Joe Kinnear, of Wimbledon, survive admirably.



Greg Rusedski and Denise Lewis have won the Sports Writers' Association of Great Britain sportsman and woman of the year awards. Rusedski, the BBC Sports Personality of the Year, is the first tennis player to receive the SWA honour. Photograph: Adrian Sherratt

Australia show healthy recovery rate

BRIAN GLANVILLE



Overseas View

The Confederations Cup, now under way in Saudi Arabia, may be dismissed as another of the follies of João Havelange, the president of Fifa, robbing clubs of leading players at a crucial point of the season, but at least it has given Terry Venables and his Australia team the chance to distinguish themselves.

A goalless draw with Brazil on Sunday was a considerable achievement. Inevitably, the Australians were under seige for much of the game, but Mark Bosnich, the Aston Villa goalkeeper, was impeccable and, when Flavio Conceicao did beat him, the shot hit the post.

An ecstatic Dave Hill, chairman of Soccer Australia, spoke of "the exceptional nature of Venables" and of "redemption", referring presumably to their somewhat unlucky elimination from the World Cup by Iran. Venables himself was "absolutely delighted". He said: "Brazil are a difficult team to beat and we earned the result."

He also spoke of chances they created, which brought a somewhat sour retort from Mario Zagallo, the veteran Brazil coach: "I don't think we are talking about the same match, or maybe I was in a different stadium."

Tight marking limited the scope of Brazil's two formidable strikers, Ronaldo and Bebeto, who was once again chosen in attack. The feud at Valencia between Romário and Claudio Ranieri, the coach, who has refused to pick him, has displeased Zagallo.

Edmundo, known as "The Animal", was not chosen for the tournament, but is leading Vasco da Gama's attack in their Brazil championship play-offs against Palmeiras and is inevitably up to his neck again in controversy.

In São Paolo on Sunday, a yellow card meant he would miss the second leg in Rio de Janeiro next Sunday. So, he got himself sent off near the end, which means Vasco can appeal and he can play in the return game! After the 0-0 draw in São Paolo, another draw would give Vasco the title. Remember that at the end of this month, Edmundo is due to join Fiorentina, whose new manager, Malesani, may have mixed feelings on the subject.

In Italy, Internazionale consolidated their leadership of Serie A with an easy 3-0 win against an AS Roma team that had two men sent off, one of them the talented young striker, Francesco Totti. Ivan Zamorano, of Chile, returned to tap in the third goal and Ronaldo and Maurizio Ganz were hardly missed. Ganz, having turned down a lucrative contract with Rangers, is now due to join Inter's great rivals, AC Milan, a transfer that Massimo Moratti, the Inter president, has termed "in bad taste". However, since the Bosman ruling means that Ganz could move for nothing at the end of the season, there was little that Inter could do about it.

Milan will pay £2 million for the 29-year-old, but have pocketed more than double that from selling the abrasive Holland midfield player, Edgar Davids, to Juventus — pure profit as, thanks again to Bosman, they picked him up for nothing from Ajax.

Juve will now be able to use him in the quarter-finals of the European Cup. Perhaps Nicola Amoruso will have recovered by then for the serious injury that he suffered at the San Siro against Milan last month.

The young striker complained bitterly about the appalling state of the pitch, which, he said, was wholly responsible for his plight. The foul given against Alessandro Costacurta, the Milan centre back, was, Amoruso said, quite unjustified. His agent is threatening to sue the stadium's administrators, but the pitch was doomed from the moment that it was greedily decided to build an extra tier around the stadium for the 1990 World Cup. Since then, the winds cannot get at the playing surface.

In the Bundesliga, Kaiserslautern, the leaders, were surprisingly beaten 2-0 at Hertha Berlin, while Borussia Dortmund's league form is in bleak contrast with their European performances. They were beaten 4-2 at lowly Cologne, where three of the home side's goals went to Anton Polster, the Austria centre forward.

Stefan Freund, one of Borussia's Germany internationals, said loftily: "We have had some fabulous experiences internationally of late, but forget that in the Bundesliga we have to adjust our view downwards."

Dailly injury adds to Derby defensive woes

BY RICHARD HOBSON

CHRISTIAN DAILLY, the Derby County and Scotland defender, will be out of action until the middle of March after fracturing his jaw in the FA Carling Premiership game against Bolton Wanderers on Sunday. The extent of the problem became apparent after an X-ray late in the evening and Dailly underwent surgery yesterday.

He was kicked accidentally by Arnar Gunnlaugsson as he stooped to head the ball late in the second half, but stayed on to complete the game. Dailly, 24, a converted midfield player, made a record 34 appearances for Scotland at under-21 level and has become a regular member of the senior side since his debut against Wales in May. He won his sixth cap in the 2-1 defeat by France last month.

Dailly's injury compounds the defensive problems facing Jim Smith, the Derby manager, before the Premiership game at Newcastle United tomorrow night. Smith had intended to rest Igor Stimac, the captain, who recently returned after an absence of two months, while Jacob Laursen is still suffering with a knee problem.

Craig Brown, the Scotland coach, has additional concerns over Gary McAllister. The Coventry City midfield player faces an exploratory operation on his right knee this week. Ligament trouble is suspected and McAllister will be out for at least six weeks. Scotland begin their preparations for the World Cup finals with a friendly at home to Denmark on March 25.

Aljosa Asanovic has told a newspaper in his native Croatia that he wants to leave Derby to rejoin Hadjuk Split. Asanovic, signed by Derby from Split for £950,000 shortly before the European championship last year, has been made available for transfer and says he would prefer to play in Croatia during the build-up to the World Cup finals.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	U	Conditions Piste	Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
AUSTRIA								
Kitzbuhel	25	80	good	powder	fair	cloud	-1	14/12
(Very good skiing on open pistes)								
Mayrhofen	10	65	good	powder	closed	cloud	0	15/12
(Very good December skiing. 14 lifts open)								
Obergurgl	50	90	good	powder	good	cloud	-8	15/12
(Generally very good but mixed visibility)								
FRANCE								
Alpe d'Huez	25	85	fair	varied	art	fair	-8	12/12
(Open pistes skiing well: snow machines in use)								
Chamonix	5	45	fair	powder	closed	fine	-3	13/12
(Very little open at the moment: reasonable skiing)								
Flaine	30	120	good	powder	fair	fair	-9	15/12
(Dusting of snow today: some good skiing)								
Tignes	60	130	fair	powder	art	snow	-11	15/12
(Val d'Isère link open: good snow available)								
Val Thorens	40	90	good	powder	fair	fair	-8	14/12
(Good skiing on available pistes: very cold)								
ITALY								
Livigno	35	85	good	varied	fair	fair	-9	13/12
(Most lifts and runs open, good skiing overall)								
SWITZERLAND								
C Montana	5	40	fair	powder	closed	fine	-7	14/12
(Good snow and skiing above 2,200m)								
Grindelwald	30	60	fair	powder	closed	cloud	-5	14/12
(Open pistes in good shape)								
Klosters	45	105	good	powder	fair	fine	-9	14/12
(Very good skiing available: very cold)								
Verbier	10	100	good	powder	closed	fine	-9	14/12
(50cm of snow at ruinettes, 2,200m)								
Wengen	20	40	fair	powder	closed	fair	-6	14/12
(Good snow and skiing above 1,600m)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

BRIDGNORTH: Shropshire cross-country championships: Men (11km): 1, A Power (Telford) 35min 55sec; 2, I Coupland (Telford) 37:04; 3, C Davies (Telford) 37:35. Teams: 1, Telford 24pts. Women (5.5km): 1, A Wright (Birchfield) 19:51; 2, Y Hill (Birchfield, holder) 22:34; 3, C Gardner (Telford) 22:45. Teams: 1, Telford 18pts.

BRIGHTON: Sussex cross-country championships: Men (7.5 miles): 1, P Davoren (Brighton and Hove) 40min 31sec; 2, N Gates (Brighton and Hove) 40:34; 3, K Holland (Crawley) 40:56. Teams: Brighton and Hove (holders) 17pts. Women (3.5 miles): 1, C Herbert (Arena 80, holder) 22:07; J Harrop (Havant) 22:32; 3, W Holden (Lewes) 22:43. Teams: 1, Arena 80 40pts.

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Birmingham Bullets 87 Derby Storm 72.

UNI-BALL TROPHY: Sheffield Sharks 65 Newcastle Eagles 68; Chester Jets 88 Leicester Riders 98. Quarter-final draw: Newcastle Eagles v Birmingham Bullets, Leopards v Thames Valley Tigers; London Towers v Manchester Giants; Sheffield Sharks or Watford Royals v Leicester Riders.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Seattle 107 Los Angeles Clippers 101; Sacramento 89 Atlanta 93; Vancouver 110 Houston 105; Los Angeles Lakers 119 Dallas 89.

BOWLS

CIS INSURANCE NATIONAL FOURS CHAMPIONSHIP: Quarter-finals: Balcardie bt Arbroath 19-18; East Lothian bt Portobello 21-16; Paisley bt Irvine 25-17. Gateon bt Whitsinch 21-16.

GLASGOW: Scottish women's indoor championships: Singles: Semi-finals: C McAllister (Lochwinnoch) bt A Thomson (Dundee) 21-14; M Latham (Blantyre) bt E Anderson (Arbroath) 21-4. Final: McAllister bt Latham 21-11. Pairs: Semi-finals: Stonehaven bt East Kilbride 24-17; Dundee bt West of Scotland 18-15. Final: Stonehaven bt Dundee 30-11. Triples: Semi-finals: Cowal bt East Kilbride 18-9; Stonehaven bt Tevoitdale 14-13. Final: Cowal bt Stonehaven 22-17. Fours: Semi-finals: Edinburgh bt Balbardie 30-13; Arbroath bt West Lothian 28-13. Final: Edinburgh bt Arbroath 19-17.

CRICKET

TOUR MATCH (third day of four): Devonport: Tasmania 535-5 dec and 27-0; South Africans 402-8 dec (W J Crane 165, A A Donald 55 not out, M V Boucher 55, M W Ridgway 4-105).

SUPERSPORT SERIES (final day of four): Johannesburg: Gauteng 361 and 253-5 dec; Border 216 and 235 (B C Foune 57, B M White 51; C E Eksteen 4-82) Gauteng win by 163 runs. Paarl: Boland 165 and 266; Western Province 121 and 242 (L D Ferreira 69; R Telemachus 5-52) Boland won by 67 runs.

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP: Mohan Nagar: India 175-7 (J van Noorwijk 4-25); Holland 82-9 India win by 93 runs. Chandigarh: New Zealand 253-9 (D Hockley 100); West Indies 55 (K Withers 4-5). New Zealand won by 198 runs.

CYCLING

CYCLO-CROSS: BCCA National Trophy (third round, Braunstone Park, Leicester, 12 miles) 1, N Craig (Diamond Back) 1hr 0min 23sec; 2, S Clarke (Team Raleigh) at 2sec; 3, S Blunt (Ace RT) at 12sec. Overall: 1, Clarke 134pts; 2, Blunt 113; 3, G Foord (Scott International) 108. Irish championship (Watersport Centre, Craigavon, Co Armagh, 11 miles): 1, R Seymour (Sachs-Grant) 1hr 02min 02sec; 2, C Brady (Cycleways) at 3:17; 3, A McDonald (Apollo CT) at 7:38. West Kent RC (Darenth Country Park, near Dartford, 12 miles): 1, M Bell (London Fire Brigade CC) 56min 02sec; 2, M Fuller (Dartford Wheelers) at 1:20; 3, B Curtis (Corridori) at 1:22. Diss and District CC (Redgrave, Norfolk, 13 miles): 1, C Thompson (Elmy Cycles) 55min 42sec; 2, C Davey (Octagon VC) at 34sec; 3, N Ainsworth (Pro Circuit) at 1:47. New Forest CC (Crow, Ringwood, 11 miles): 1, N Parkinson (Bournemouth Jubilee Wheelers) 57min 12sec; 2, S Bowers (Dorset Rough Riders) at 15sec; 3, W O'Callaghan (Bournemouth Jubilee Wheelers) at 51sec. Derwentside CC (Meadowfield Sports Centre, Durham, 9 miles): 1, N Clough (Swaledale CC) 55min 00sec; 2, S Ward (VC Azzurri) at 46sec; 3, M Robinson (Cleveland MBC) at 1:10. Cherry Valley RT (Hubbards Hill, Louth, 10 miles): 1, S Barron (VC Lincoln) 48min 13sec; 2, R Broughton (Alford Wheelers) at 2:43; 3, P English (VC Lincoln) at 3:35. Golden Valley CC (Mansell Lacy, near Hereford, 11 miles): 1, M James (Coventry Olympic) 57min 53sec; 2, G Poupart (Worcester St John's CC) at 3:46; 3, S Bennett (Team Orange) at 5:37. Shaftesbury CC (Gloucester Park, Basildon, 11 miles): 1, C Davey (Octagon VC) 1hr 00min 00sec; 2, M Bell (London Fire Brigade CC) at 20sec; 3, I Newby (Diss and District CC) at 3:18. Swansea CC (Morfa Stadium, 10 miles): 1, I Jeremiah (Cardiff JIF) 48min 00sec; 2, G Stevens (Abergavenny RC) at 2:00; 3, M Thomas (Swansea CC) at 1 lap. South Western CCA (The Tumps, Bath, 9 miles): 1, J Richardson (Team Sports Coaching) 50min 00sec; 2, P Vincent (Global Racing) at 1:35; 3, J Tazewell (Sports Coaching) at 2:05.

TIME-TRIAL: Chesterfield Spire RC (Ranby, North Nottinghamshire, 10 miles): 1, A Horner (Leo RC) 20min 33sec (event record); 2, S Brown (East Bradford CC) 20:55; 3, G Dighton (Leo RC) 20:57.

ROAD RACES: Leicestershire RC Christmas handicap (Belton, 35.2 miles): 1, D Sweeney (Rockingham Forest Wheelers) 1hr 28min 27sec; 2, C Garner (Coalville Wheelers) at 30sec; 3, J Perkins (Corah CC) same time. Twickenham CC Winter Series (fourth round, Hillingdon, 50 kilometres): 1, R Hammond (Paimans) 58min 00sec; 2, L Garner (Twickenham CC) at 35sec; 3, P Doherty (West Drayton MBC) same time.

ETON FIVES

HIGHGATE: London tournament: Semi-finals: J P Reynolds and H Wiseman bt M de Souza and J Fredericks 3-1; E Taylor and R Tyler bt J Fleming and G Levy 3-0. Final: Taylor and Tyler bt Reynolds and Wiseman 3-2.

FOOTBALL

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Southern division: Chelmsford 0 Weymouth 3.

FAI HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Bohemians 2 Dundalk 0; Cork 1 Drogheda 1; UCD 1 Derry 2.

FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National division: Arsenal 9 Wembley 1; Millwall 1 Doncaster 2. Northern division: Arnold 0 Blyth Spartans 3, Aston Villa 3 Garswood St Helens 4, Huddersfield 6 Bloxwich 2. Southern division: Rushden and Diamonds 1 Whitehawk 16.

ITALIAN LEAGUE: Vicenza 1 Fiorentina 5

GERMAN LEAGUE: VfL Bochum 0 Bayer Leverkusen 0.

SPANISH LEAGUE: Tenerife 2 Atlético Madrid 2.

FRENCH LEAGUE: Paris Saint-Germain 1 Metz 1; AS Monaco 1 Rennes 0.

CONFEDERATIONS' CUP: United Arab Emirates 1 South Africa 0; Uruguay 2 Czech Republic 1 (both in Riyadh).

ARGENTINIAN LEAGUE: Rosario Central 4 Independiente 0; Gimnasia La Plata 3 Newell's Old Boys 2; Lanus 1 Gimnasia Jujuy 0; Deportivo Espanol 2 San Lorenzo 6; Huracan 1 Velez Sarsfield 1; Union 1 Argentinos Juniors 0; River Plate 2 Colon 1; Gimnasia y Tiro 0 Boca Juniors 1.

BRAZILIAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Final, first leg: Palmeiras 0 Vasco da Gama 0.

FA CARLSBERG VASE: Fourth-round draw: Taunton Town v Herne Bay; Camberley Town or Sudbury Wanderers v Bedlington Terriers; Cadby Town v Tooting and Mitcham Utd; Hucknall Town v Wroxham; Billingham Town v Bodmin Town; Tow Law Town v Brook House or Hixon; Kidsgrove Athletic v Bracke Sports; Braintree Town v Lymington; Stamford v Pottera Bar Town; Cowes Sports or Chard Town v North Ferriby Utd; Sudbury Town v Burscough; Tiverton Town v West Auckland Town; Spalding Utd v Birstall Utd; Stotfold v Porthleven; Clitheroe v Burgess Hill Town; Great Wakering Rovers v Folkestone Invicta.

☐ Ties to be played January 17, 1998

ICE HOCKEY

SUPERLEAGUE: Cardiff Devils 2 Ayr Scottish Eagles 3 (OT); Newcastle Cobras 0 Manchester Storm 4; Sheffield Steelers 0 Nottingham Panthers 5.

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Chicago 1 San Jose 2; Philadelphia 3 Tampa Bay 0; Phoenix 3 Detroit 3 (OT).

RUGBY UNION

The Times Students European championship

Pool three

Cardiff Inst	*107*	*Queen's, Belfast*	*10*

Cardiff Institute: Tries: Thomas 3, Wall 3, Williams 2, Cooper, S Jones, P Jones, Budgett, Vobe, Short, Cooke. Cons: Vobe 7, Williams 5. Dropped goal: Vobe. Queen's University, Belfast: Try: Weir. Con: Harron. Pen: Harron

(at Cyncoed)

Edinburgh	20	Exeter	17

Edinburgh University: Tries: Bibby, Griffiths. Cons: Banks 2. Pens: Banks 2. Exeter University: Tries: Griffiths, Gordon Duff. Con: Ashton. Dropped goal: Morgan.

(at Llanrumney)

Pool four

Oxford	42	Bristol	17

Oxford University: Tries: Greswcock 2, Woodbine 2, Van Reenen. Cons: J Booth 4. Pens: J Booth 3. Bristol University: Wilson, Robinson. Con: Goode. Pen: Goode.

(at Marlyvle)

WOMEN'S NATIONAL CUP: First round: Sale 5 Clifton 7; Sevenoaks 0 Wasps 122; St Albans 10 Leeds 22; Dover 0 Canterbury 72; Teddington Antlers 57 Stretford 15; Richmond 35 Lichfield 22; Sudbury 17 Liverpool St Helens 5; Medway 0 Waterloo 87; Novocastrians 12 Alton 19; Nottingham Casuals 5 Old Leamingtonians 38; Worcester 12 Crawley 5; Lakenham and Hewitt 12 Blackheath 10.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Eastbourne 32 Hurstpierpoint 5, RGS Worcester 17 King's, Worcester 7; Wrekin 13 Ampleforth 19.

SNOOKER

BINGEN: German Open: Final: J Higgins (Scot) bt J Parrott (Eng) 9-4.

VOLLEYBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men: First division: Crofton Sportswearhouse 3 Wessex 2 (15-12, 9-15, 10-15, 15-9, 15-9); Leeds 3 Smithfield 2 (9-15, 15-11, 9-15, 15-12, 15-13); Liverpool 3 Stoke 2 (8-15, 11-15, 15-6, 16-14, 15-12); Whitfield 0 Tooting Aquila 3 (13-15, 12-15, 11-15); Polonia Ealing 3 Mekory Lewisham 2 (8-15, 7-15, 15-9, 17-16, 18-14).

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated
** denotes all-ticket*

FA Cup
Second-round replays

* Basingstoke v Northampton (7.45) ....
Boreham Wood v Cheltenham .....
Chesterfield v Grimsby (7.45) .....
Hereford v Colchester (7.45) .....
Notts County v Preston (7.45) .....
Watford v Torquay (7.45) .....

Bell's Scottish League
Second division

Clyde v Queen of South .....

Spalding Cup
Quarter-finals

Hayes v Yeovil (7.45) .....
Northwich v Hednesford (7.45) .....

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Atherstone v Worcester City; Dorchester v Skingbourne; Nuneaton v Gloucester. Southern division: Clevedon v Waterlooville. Cup: Second round: Bath v Newport (IoW) (7.45); Burton Albion v Moor Green; Cambridge City v Hinckley Utd (7.45); Hastings v Margate (7.45); Stourbridge v Solihull.

RYMAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Bishop's Stortford v Hendon (7.45). First division: Abingdon Town v Wembley; Hampton v Bognor Regis. Second division: Braintree v Witham; Horsham v Wealdstone. Third division: Wingate and Finchley v Corinthian-Casuals. Full Members Cup: Second round: Leatherhead v Chertsey. Associate Members Trophy: Second round: Aveley v Cheshunt.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: First division: Congleton v Droylsden. Cup: Third round: Altrincham v Colwyn Bay; Blyth Spartans v Frickley; Mamie v Runcorn; Unitata, first division Cup: First round: Albion v Trafford.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Arsenal v Ipswich (2.0); Crystal Palace v Luton (at Plough Lane, 2.0); Millwall v Charlton (2.0); Queens Park Rangers v Portsmouth (at Loftus Road, 2.0).

GUARDIAN INSURANCE CUP: Third round: Canvey Island v Hitchin; Carshalton v Billericay (7.45); Romford v Bromley (7.45); St Albans v Bedford T (7.45); Wokingham v Walton and Hersham (7.45).

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTHERN LEAGUE: Cup: Second round: Tow Law v Jarrow Roofing.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Slade Green v Sheppey; Whitstable Town v Folkestone Invicta.

GILBERT LEAGUE CUP: Second round, second leg: Rhayader Town v Barry.

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Mangotsfield Utd v Paulton R.

CALOR COUNTY ANTRIM SHIELD: Quarter-finals: Distillery v Ballyclare; Dundela v Larne; Linfield v Cliftonville; Portadown v Crusaders.

MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: O'Brien Butchers premier division Cup: First round, first leg: Harefield v Berkhamsted; London Colney v Buckingham Athletic; Welham Abbey v Brook House.

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Chesiyn Hay v Knowle.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Diss v Woodbridge Town; Wroxham v Great Yarmouth.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Lymington v Gosport; Andover v Eastleigh; Bournemouth v Totton; Wimborne v Thatcham Town.

FA CARLSBERG VASE: Third-round replays: Histon v Brook House; Sudbury Wndrs v Camberley Town.

THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: Second round: Manchester City v West Bromwich.

RUGBY UNION

Allied Dunbar Premiership
First division

Richmond v Leicester (8.0) .....

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: European Cup: Rhondort (Ger) v London Towers (7.30).

SWIMMING

Britain in right spirit to take on the world

BY CRAIG LORD

AN EMPHASIS on relay teams and their importance to creating team spirit in what is essentially a sport of individuals has swelled the Great Britain team for the world championships, in Perth, Australia, next month, to 32, the largest squad to be entered for the four-yearly event.

James Hickman, the world short-course champion over 200 metres butterfly, whose illness at the European championships in August denied him automatic qualification for Perth, is the only one of ten additions selected for individual events.

Deryk Snelling, the national performance director, said: "I want six swimmers qualifying for all six relay teams, so we have two reserves in each case and no one's place is safe. That gives us so many more swimmers with a chance of finalling and medalling at a major championship and helps bond the team. That's the team spirit element of swimming."

The men's 4 x 200 metres team, the European champions, is strengthened by the addition of Mark Stevens, of the University of Bath. Stevens won the 100 and 200 metres titles at the British championships last week.

GREAT BRITAIN TEAM: Men: A Clayton (University of Bath); M Foster (University of Bath); M Harris (Tower Hamlets); J Hickman (Stockport Metro); R Maden (Rochdale Aquabears); G Meadows (City of Leeds); D Mew (University of Bath); P Palmer (University of Bath); S Parry (City of Liverpool); A Rackwood (City of Birmingham); J Salter (City of Edinburgh); N Sheckell (Millfield); G Smith (Stockport Metro); M Spackman (University of Bath); M Stevens (University of Bath); N Willey (Barnet Copthall); I Wilson (City of Leeds). Women: J Belton (City of Bradford); J Craig (Haverhill); H Don-Duncan (Ashton Central); C Foot (York City Baths); L Hindmarsh (City of Leeds); V Homer (Stockport Metro); C Huddart (City of Leeds); J King (University of Bath); K Lagg (Ferndown); M Marshall (South Lincolnshire); M Pedder (Portsmouth Northsea); K Pickering (Ipswich); S Price (Barnet Copthall); S Rolph (City of Newcastle); K Sexton (Portsmouth Northsea).

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

Company Number: 03229026
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
DOCTOR EUROMAIL LIMITED
Registered address:
1 Pemberton Row,
Fetter Lane,
London EC4A 3BA.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of creditors of the above company will be held at 24 Bevis Marks, London EC3A 7NR on the 22nd December 1997 at 11.00 a.m. for the purposes provided for in Section 100 and 101 of the said Act.
The resolutions to be taken at the meeting include a resolution specifying the terms on which the Joint Liquidators are to be remunerated and that the meeting may receive information about, or be called upon to approve, the costs of preparing the statement of affairs and convening the meeting.
A proxy form is available, which, to enable a creditor to vote, must be lodged together with a statement of your claim against the Company at the offices of Neville Russell, Chartered Accountants, 24 Bevis Marks, London EC3A 7NR not later than 12.00 noon on Friday the 19th December 1997.
A list of names and addresses of the Company's creditors will be available for inspection free of charge at the offices of Neville Russell, on Thursday the 18th December 1997 between the hours of 1.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m.
Dated this 10th day of December 1997.
Leslie O'Hara, Director

MAPLES GROUP PLC
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above-named Company will be held at 25 New Street Square, London EC4A 3LN on 22 December 1997 at 12.00 noon for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 to 101 of the said Act. Creditors wishing to vote at the Meeting must lodge their proxy, together with a full statement of account at the registered office - Shattock House, 7 Kendrick Place, London W1R 3FF not later than 12 noon on 19 December 1997. For the purposes of voting, a secured creditor is required (unless he surrenders his security) to lodge at Shattock House, 7 Kendrick Place, London W1R 3FF before the meeting, a statement giving particulars of his security, the date when it was given and the value at which it is assessed.
Notice is further given that a list of the names and addresses of the Company's creditors may be inspected, free of charge, at Shattock House, 7 Kendrick Place, London, W1R 3FF between 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. on the two business days preceding the date of the meeting named above.
DATED this 9TH DAY of DECEMBER 1997
By Order of the Board
John Nigmel Hardman, Director

The Insolvency Act 1986
TOTALENERGY LTD
(In Liquidation)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Maurice Raymond Dovington FCA of Poppleton & Appleby, 4 Chancellors Square, London SC1M 6BN was appointed Liquidator of the said Company by the members and creditors on 28th November 1997.
M.R. DOVINGTON, Liquidator

The Insolvency Act 1986
PLUGS AND PLANTS LIMITED
AND J.C. PLANTS LIMITED
(Each In Liquidation)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Maurice Raymond Dovington FCA of Poppleton & Appleby, 4 Chancellors Square, London SC1M 6BN was appointed Liquidator of the said Companies by the members and creditors on 14th November 1997.
M.R. DOVINGTON, Liquidator

Streamlock Limited
Registered Number - 680408.
Nature of Business - Design / Manufacturer Stationery & Calendars. Trade classification - Division 2-10. Date of Appointment of Administrative Receiver(s) - 8 December 1997.
Name of person appointing the Administrative Receiver(s) - Meridian Properties Limited. Joint Administrative Receivers): David R.F. Sayer & Frances E. Watson (Office Holder Number: 5248 & 7182) of Begbies Traynor, 6 Richmond Buildings, Gerge Inn, London WC1R 5HF. Dated 8 December 1997

PUBLIC NOTICES

THE CENTRALISED RETIREMENT BENEFITS SCHEME FOR LONDON & OVERSEAS BANKS
Notice to all Creditors and others to make their claims against the Trustees

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 27 of the Trustee Act 1925, that any persons having any interest in or claim against The Centralised Retirement Benefit Scheme for London & Overseas Banks

- Byblos Bank S.A.

- Banco do Estado de Sao Paulo S.A.

- Banque Internationale Pour L'Afrique Occidentale

is hereby required to send particulars of his or her claim in writing, to the Trustees of the Scheme at: Glanrhos Trustees Ltd, Finsbury House, 23 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 7EL, and to send such particulars not later than two months after the date of this Notice, after which date the Trustees will distribute the fund among the persons of whom they then have notice and will not, as regards the property so distributed, be liable to any person whose claim they shall not then have notice.

H.M. Land Registry
Lost certificate
It is proposed to issue a new certificate to replace the described below that is stated to have been lost or destroyed. Anyone possessing the missing certificate or objecting to the issue of a new one should at once notify The Leicester District Land Registry of Westbridge Place, Lafayette Rd, LE3 5XR.
Land Certificate Freehold Title Number SGL166968 - 4 Swan Terrace, Sunny Bramford, Milton Keynes, Bucks.
Proprietor: Kamal Mahfi Mahfi El Gawwas of P O Box 212629, Amman W1121, Jordan.

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES
TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE
0171 680 6878
FAX: 0171 481 9313
Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

هكذا من الأصل

RUGBY UNION

Saracens lead the upward march of game's new order

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

IT HAS taken them more than a year, but the money spent by Saracens and Newcastle seems to have broken the stranglehold on English rugby exerted by Bath and Leicester — and, to a lesser degree, Wasps.

That the old order is changing has been apparent this season, the only query being whether the newcomers can sustain their charge to the top or whether their bubble will burst. With two-thirds of the premiership season still to go, neither Saracens nor Newcastle will be making brash predictions, but already they have shown the kind of quality that has garnered in the points from which confidence grows.

But are Bath, Wasps and Sale — contenders for Europe and cup finalists last season but beaten by 50 points at Leicester over the weekend — declining forces, or did special circumstances attend their most recent games? Bath and Wasps played uncharacteristically badly, whereas Sale, when they had the ball, played to some effect at Welford Road. Their problem was that Leicester allowed them such meagre possession.

John Mitchell, the director of rugby at Sale, admitted that his absence with England for most of November had not helped, but added sternly: "I expect professional players to prepare themselves properly. We have lost momentum after starting November on a high." But, if Mitchell's absence affected Sale, how much more would the absence with England of Rob Smith, Pat Fox and Phil Keith-Roach have affected Wasps?

TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Saracens	7	7	0	0	195	103	14
Newcastle	6	6	0	0	180	109	12
Harlequins	6	4	0	2	184	161	8
Leicester	6	3	0	1	127	78	6
Sale	7	3	0	4	232	201	6
Richmond	6	3	0	3	134	120	6
Bath	6	3	0	3	176	169	6
Northampton	6	2	0	4	139	120	4
Gloucester	6	2	0	4	147	149	4
Wasps	5	1	0	4	109	153	2
London Irish	6	1	0	5	90	190	2
Bristol	7	1	0	6	92	252	2

All three are key members of the Wasps coaching panel and were required by England to look after the A team, the conditioning and the scrummaging respectively. The absence of competitive rugby may not have been crucial, as Saracens and Newcastle demonstrated, but if the quality of work done in training declined due to the absence of management personnel, the individual clubs would be obliged to monitor the situation even more closely.

Yet that was not the case with Bath. They may have been without Mike Catt when they lost 50-23 at Vicarage Road on Sunday, but they still fielded 13 internationals, many of whom allowed themselves to be pulled around the pitch with a naivety that can hardly be imagined.

It could be argued that minds may have been on this Saturday's Heineken Cup semi-final with Pau (who also lost their French championship match with Bourgoin, 29-9) but that has never been the Bath way.

They have always focused on the match in hand and, when playing badly, have dug deep into reserves of character that have allowed them, more often than not, to win by a handful of points. It was the absence of such character that neutral observers found most disturbing on Sunday.

However, the successful clubs must also be credited with getting their preparation right. "I have enormous respect for Bath and what they have achieved," Mark Evans, the director of rugby at Saracens, said, "but we should have scored 20 more points against them.

"I don't think we played brilliantly and we have all the hard work still to do. No one has taken us too seriously as contenders until now and that's an easy position from which to motivate yourself. We are there to be shot at now, and how we respond to that will be interesting."

Similarly, Wasps, as league winners last season, were there to be shot at and, initially, their European campaign suggested that they were handling the problem well; however, once they started losing games and key players with injuries, they were unable to turn the tide.

Leicester, who suffered hiccups in the premiership at Northampton and in Europe, have more experience of dealing with the hard times. "You learn from the school of hard knocks," Duncan Hall, their assistant coach, said, with reference to the demanding second half of last season.

"We learnt so much from the first year of full-time training. We have stayed relatively injury-free and we have tried to align our training with that of England."

Leicester have also played their youngsters in the Cheltenham & Gloucester Cup, alongside their overseas players, with a beneficial effect. Two of them, Lewis Moody and Paul Gustard, appear tonight in the Allied Dunbar Premiership game at Richmond, though Eric Miller is absent on Ireland duty, and Austin Healey and Darren Garforth are rested.

Richmond are without Spencer Brown, their England A wing, who damaged a cheekbone in the win over Bristol but give a premiership debut to Agustin Pichot, their Argentina scrum half.



GARETH EVERETT

Thorpe, of Exeter, is held up close to the line against Edinburgh yesterday

Vobe leads Cardiff rout

By Michael Aylwin

CARDIFF Institute set out their stall as the *Times* Student European Rugby Championship got under way yesterday. Cardiff host one of the four pools, but the welcome they extended to Queen's, Belfast was less than hospitable. They ran 16 tries past their plucky visitors in a 107-10 rout. There were hat-tricks for Graham Thomas and Chris Wall, while Gethin Vobe scored 22 points with a try, seven conversions and a dropped goal.

Gareth Cooper, who was the Wales Schools scrum half last season, claimed a brace, including a spectacular effort from within his own 22.

Cardiff play their Saturday rugby in the first division of the Welsh League and the fitness and pace that such standards demand proved too much for Queen's, who nevertheless persevered to register their only try in the 71st minute.

Cardiff will not be unduly concerned, either, by events in the concurrent fixture in their pool, between Edinburgh and Exeter. Edinburgh deserved to shade a dour contest 20-17. Both sides scored two tries, Richard Bibby and Richard Griffiths for Edinburgh and Paul Griffiths and Torquil Gordon-Duff for Exeter.

Ian Banks's kicking proved decisive for Edinburgh, but neither team were expected to achieve anything like the levels of performance that might have given Queen's something approaching hope in their efforts to live with the hosts.

In Cork, a powerful Oxford team proved too strong for Bristol, defeating them 42-17 in an open match full of running rugby. Seven tries were scored with Oxford providing five of them. Schalk van Reenan took the first, while Duncan Grewcock and Richard Woodbine scored two each. The Oxford forwards, still smarting from their defeat in the University match, dominated Bristol and a lot of possession was turned over their way as a result.

A 25-0 lead was secured by half-time and Oxford retained control of the match for the opening ten minutes of the second half, when a couple of Bristol tries would have been opportune. These were not to arrive however until midway through the second period, thanks to Danny Wilson and Toby Robinson, allowing the young Bristol side to take nothing more than pride form the match.

Glasgow trying to bridge the gap

By Kevin Ferrie

GLASGOW District yesterday moved closer to achieving the type of structure that they believe they need to become truly competitive in Europe by selecting a 42-strong elite development squad.

This route is the one many leading figures in the game believe Scottish rugby must now follow, as agonising continues over the recent capitulation to Australia and humbling at the hands of South Africa.

Calls for the removal of the national coach, Richie Dixon, have been accompanied by renewed demands for a solution to the damaging clubs v districts controversy, which led to the compromised domestic schedule and to such an unsatisfactory preparation for the meetings with the southern hemisphere powers.

However, the overriding impression has been of a shortage of raw talent, leaving Scotland unable to compensate for the loss of several key players.

Keith Robertson, the newGlasgow coach, has pointed out how, in his native New Zealand, young players are drawn into the provincial set-up directly from school, rather than coming through the clubs. While eager to point out that they do not want to bypass the clubs, Glasgow's creation of this elite squad addresses the perception that players are arriving at representative level ill-equipped.

"Our aim is to provide selected players with the information and opportunities to develop into complete players with the physical and mental ability to represent Glasgow and Scotland," David Jordan, the Glasgow chief executive, said. That players in the senior district squad are not receiving that sort of preparation at the moment seems to be underlined by the news of the resignation of John McHarg, coach of Kilmarnock Falcons, the district's third-highest placed club side.

"If they want to play a social style of rugby I have no problems with that, I just have no wish to be part of it," McHarg explained:

Glasgow's elite group, including players from under-18 level and a quartet of graduates from the under-21 squad, will take part in seven sessions between January and March, covering fitness, diet, psychology and laws, as well as one-to-one coaching.

☐ Scotland A will play Northern Transvaal in Glasgow on January 23. Scotland developed close links with the South African province when they were based in Pretoria for the 1995 World Cup.

Prop Clohessy returns for injury-hit Ireland

PETER CLOHESSY, suspended by Ireland for 26 weeks in 1996 after a stamping incident against France, returns to international rugby on Saturday (David Hands writes). Clohessy, the Young Munster tight-head prop, takes over from the injured Paul Wallace in the team to play Italy in Bologna, his seventeenth appearance.

It was Wallace who benefited when Clohessy withdrew at the eleventh hour from the British Isles' tour to South Africa this summer because of a back strain. Wallace, who played for the full side that won the series, sustained a calf injury against Bath on Sunday.

Injuries to Rob Henderson and Kieron Dawson have induced further changes to the midfield and back row. Henderson suffered a groin strain near the end of Wasps' defeat by Harlequins but hopes to play again after a fortnight's rest. His place at centre goes to Kevin Maggs, whose removal from the wing allows Darragh O'Mahony of Moseley to win his third cap, two years after his first two.

Dawson has an injured ankle and is replaced in the back row by David Erskine, giving Ireland two Sale flankers; Erskine will play on the blind side with Dylan O'Grady moving to the open side.

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SPORT IN BRIEF

Oldham to miss knockout challenge

■ **RUGBY LEAGUE:** Oldham, who were Challenge Cup winners as far back as 1899, are being omitted from this season's competition. The decision to leave them out was taken after the Lancashire club went into liquidation and before the new club was launched.

"Decisions had to be taken in early November when Oldham weren't in existence," Peter Rowe, a spokesman for the Rugby Football League, said. The other 18 first and second division clubs will join the 22 amateur survivors from this weekend's second-round ties in the third round on January 31.

National service

■ **HOCKEY: Five players from England's 1996 European indoor championship gold medal-winning squad have been included in the training party to take part in the European indoor championship in Orense, Spain from January 23 to 25. Sue Knight, Sue Chandler, Michelle Liptrot, Mandy Nicholls and Sam Wright should all be confident of regaining their places when the final team is announced after training at Lilleshall on December 21.**

TRAINING SQUAD: D Barnes, K Bache (Portishead), B Frater, S Knight, S Chandler, M Nicholls, J Robertson, S Wright (Slough), S Blanks (Leicester), J Green, K Roberts (Chelmsford), M Liptrot, D Marston-Smith, K Walsh (Highlown), I Palmer (Colwall), H Richardson (Sherwood)

People's choice

■ **TELEVISION:** Greg Rusedski, Great Britain's No 1 tennis player, won the BBC Television Sports Personality of the Year Award.

Rusedski, 24, who was born in Montreal, but whose mother is English, was the runner-up at the US Open, reached the quarter-finals at Wimbledon and climbed to No 4 in the world rankings, the highest position achieved by any British male player.

The magic numbers of sport

By Simon Barnes

MAGIC numbers and free champagne: what more could possibly be desired by anyone with sporting blood in the veins? Once again *The Times* is able to offer bottled bliss, in the form of Nicolas Feuillatte champagne, to anyone who contributes a Magic Number this Christmas.

A Magic Number is one that carries immense sporting weight. Some numbers carry weight for all time, like Don Bradman's 99.94 or Torvill and Dean's 6. But every year throws up new numbers.

How about 78, 0, and 0? These are the numbers for Michael Schumacher: the 78 points he was docked for crashing into Jacques Villeneuve, the zero points he was left with and the zero fine he was given for this potentially lethal assault.

I will judge the numbers for their champagne-worthiness and entries should be sent to me at:

The Sports Desk,
The Times,
1 Pennington Street,
London E1 9XN

or by fax to 0171 782 5211.

The final collection is to be published shortly after Christmas, so do it soon.

ICE HOCKEY

Violence disfigures Panthers' success

By Norman de Mesquita

THE unacceptable face of ice hockey was in evidence at Sheffield Arena on Sunday when the Steelers and Nottingham Panthers combined for 301 minutes in penalties and an incident early in the third period saw five players ejected.

Corey Beaulieu, Scott Allison and Mike Ware, of Sheffield, together with Kraig Nienhuis and Jeffrey Sebastian, of Nottingham, were sent packing after four minutes of the final session and, in a separate incident, Derek Laxdal and the Sheffield captain, Rob Wilson, were ejected with just under six minutes remaining.

What ice hockey there was in evidence was played by the Panthers, who won 5-0; the first time this season that the Steelers have failed to score at home. Marty Dallman scored twice in the first period, Paul Adey and Gregg Hadden added second-period goals and Jamie Leach completed the scoring with five minutes remaining.

Newcastle Cobras also failed to score at home as they were beaten 4-0 by Manchester Storm.

Cardiff Devils, the inaugural Superleague champions last year, appear unlikely to repeat their success. They were beaten 3-2 at home by Ayr Scottish Eagles and have lost four of their past six games.

The teams scored once each in the first period, once each again in the second and, after a scoreless third period, it took an overtime goal by John Parco to give the Eagles the points.

They consolidated third place with this win while Manchester's success in Newcastle allowed them to maintain their two-point margin over Nottingham Panthers at the top of the table.

SNOOKER

Higgins sets off in pursuit of Hendry's world ranking

By Phil Yates

WITH cue problems a distant memory, confidence fully restored and a strict practice regime in place, John Higgins believes that he, as well as Ronnie O'Sullivan, can challenge Stephen Hendry's long-held status as world No 1.

Higgins replaced O'Sullivan, the recent winner of the United Kingdom championship, as Hendry's closest pursuer in the world rankings by beating John Parrott 9-4 in the German Open final at Bingen on Sunday.

"Now it is a matter of remaining focused and not slipping back into bad habits," Higgins said. "There is no way I am going to be content with this. I want to win more tournaments this season and build up for the world championship."

Bad habits for Higgins are not the normal vices associated with wayward sportsmen. He has nothing more sordid to confess than the expensive mistake of taking success for granted after six world-ranking event victories between October 1994 and March of this year.

"I just wasn't putting in enough time on my game," Higgins said. "This summer I made the decision to work much harder, but now I realise I was only going through the motions. I went down to the club every day, but concentration just wasn't there." Reaching the final of the Grand Prix in Bournemouth in October and the Rothmans Malta Grand Prix last month also camouflaged the fact that, by his own standards, Higgins was performing well short of peak efficiency.

The penny eventually dropped after he lost to Gary Ponting in the last 64 of the United Kingdom championship four weeks ago. "It was my lowest point in snooker," Higgins said. "Thankfully, every cloud has a silver lining and at least that result gave me the kick up the backside I needed."

Higgins, 22, still trails Hendry by over 8,000 ranking points, but is determined to reduce the deficit. "Stephen is the guy everyone targets," he said. "Even though he hasn't fired so far this season, I will still have to be extremely consistent just to get close to him but I will certainly be having a go."



Higgins: confident again

SPORTS POLITICS

Institute remains central question

By John Goodbody

THE central consortium in the East Midlands remains the favourite to be chosen as the venue for the £160 million United Kingdom Sports Institute when the decision is made today.

After more than two years of debate and the arrival of a new Government with different views on the Institute, plans are in place to establish a network of facilities, backed with lottery money, to prepare British competitors for future Olympic Games and world championships.

At the hub of the regional network of at least 12 centres will be the Institute, which will feature training facilities and generic services, such as sports medicine and sports science. Government ministers, led by Chris Smith, the Secretary for Culture, Media and Sport, and the United Kingdom Sports Council will decide today between the three short-listed candidates.

The central consortium probably has the strongest support. It is spread over three existing venues: Loughborough University in Leicestershire, the national water sports centre just outside Nottingham and Lilleshall, the national sports centre in Shropshire.

The Upper Heyford site in Oxfordshire is being promoted by the British Olympic Association (BOA). Its chances were reduced when the Government excluded the main British male team sports — cricket, football and rugby — from direct use of the former American air base, although they will use the generic services.

The bid from Sheffield is based on the £100 million worth of facilities used for the 1991 World Student Games. Venues include Ponds Forge, the most modern aquatic centre in Europe, the Don Valley athletic stadium, the Sheffield Arena and a national ice centre to be built with £12 million of lottery money.

POOLS CHECKS OVER THE HOLIDAY PERIOD

Saturday December 20
Coupon No, fixture, forecast
FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP
1 Arsenal v South'pton 1
2 Blackburn v W. Ham 1
3 Derby v C Palace X
4 Leeds v Bolton 2
5 Leicester v Everton 1
6 Liverpool v Coventry 1
7 Sheff Wed v Chelsea X
8 Tottenham v Barnsley 1
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION
9 Bury v Sheff Utd 2
10 Crewe v Sunderland 2
11 Man City v Wimbledon 2
12 Ipswich v Stoke 1
13 Notts F v Stockport 1
14 Port Vale v Ipswich 2
15 Portsmouth v Charlton X
16 Reading v Wolves X
17 Swindon v Barn'gham 1
18 Tranmere v Oxford X
19 W Brom v Huddersf'd 1
SECOND DIVISION
20 Soutn'm'th v Watford 2
21 Bristol C v Chest'fld 1
22 Grimsby v Carlisle 1
23 Luton v Bristol R 1
24 Millwall v Wycombe 1
25 North'pton v Plymouth 1
26 Wigan v Brentford X
27 Wrexham v Gillingham 1
THIRD DIVISION
28 Brighton v Shrewsbury 1
29 Darlington v Scunth'pe1
30 Exeter v Rochdale 1
31 Hartlepool v Mansfield 1
32 Leyton O v Hull 1
33 Macclesf'ld v Cardiff X
34 Peterboro v Lincoln 1
35 Swansea v Camb'ge UX
36 Torquay v Notts Co X
BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION
37 Celtic v Hibernian 1
38 Dundee U v St J'st'ne 1
39 Hearts v Rangers X
40 Kilmarn'k v Aberdeen 1
41 Moth'well v Dunf'mline 2
FIRST DIVISION
42 Falkirk v Ardrie 1
43 G Morton v Stirling 1
44 Partick v Ayr 2
45 Raith v Hamilton 1
46 St Mirren v Dundee 2
SECOND DIVISION
47 Brechin v Berth'muir 2
48 Inverness CT v Forfar 2
49 Livingston v Clyde 1

TREBLE CHANCE (home teams): Derby, Sheffield Wednesday, Southampton, Reading, Sheffield United, Wednesday, Chesterfield, Swansea, Torquay, Wigan, Macclesfield, Falkirk. BEST DRAWS: Portsmouth, Reading, Swansea, Torquay, Hearts.

FIXED ODDS: Homes: Derby, Norwich, Grimsby, Brighton. Aways: Sheffield United, Sunderland, Middlesbrough. Draws: Portsmouth, Reading, Hearts.

Vince Wright

Friday December 26
Coupon No, fixture, forecast
FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP
1 Arsenal v Leicester 1
2 Bolton v Barnsley X
3 Chelsea v Wimbledon 1
4 C Palace v South'pton 1
5 Derby v Newcastle 2
6 Liverpool v Leeds X
7 Man Utd v Everton 1
8 Sheff Wed v Blackburn X
9 West Ham v Coventry 1
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION
10 Charlton v Norwich X
11 Crewe v Man City 2
12 Hudd'sf'd v Middlesbro X
13 Ipswich v Birmingham 1
14 Notts F v Swindon 1
15 Portsmouth v QPR 1
16 Reading v West Brom 2
17 Stockport v Port Vale 1
18 Stoke v Sheff Utd 2
19 Sunderland v Bradford 1
20 Tranmere v Bury 1
21 Wolves v Oxford 1
SECOND DIVISION
22 Bournem'th v Gillingham 1
23 Brentford v Southend X
24 Bristol C v Millwall 1
25 Burnley v Chesterfield 2
26 Carlisle v Blackpool 2
27 Luton v Northampton X
28 Plymouth v Fulham 2
29 Preston v Oldham X
30 Walsall v Bristol R 1
31 Wrexham v Wigan 1
32 Wycombe v Watford 2
33 York v Grimsby X
THIRD DIVISION
34 Barnet v Peterboro 2
35 Cambridge v Leyton OX
36 Cardiff v Exeter 1
37 Darlington v Macclesf'ld1
38 Doncaster v Mansfield X
39 Hartlepool v Scarboro 1
40 Hull v Chester X
41 Lincoln v Rotherham 1
42 Rochdale v Shrewsbury1
43 Scunthorpe v Notts Co1
44 Torquay v Swansea 1
VAUXHALL CONFERENCE
45 Cheltenham v Yeovil 1
46 Dover v Welling 1
47 Gateshead v Halifax 2
48 Hednesford v Kettering1
49 Leek v Telford 1

TREBLE CHANCE (home teams): Bolton, Liverpool, Sheffield Wednesday, Charlton, Huddersfield, Brentford, Luton, Preston, York, Cambridge, Doncaster, Hull. FIXED ODDS: Homes: West Ham, Stockport, Sunderland, Wrexham, Darlington. Aways: Manchester City, Sheffield United, Chesterfield. Draws: Liverpool, Sheffield Wednesday, Brentford. BEST DRAWS: Liverpool, Sheffield Wednesday, Huddersfield, Brentford, Luton.

Saturday December 27 and Sunday December 28
Coupon No, fixture, forecast
FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP
1 Barnsley v Derby X
2 Blackburn v C Palace 1
3 Coventry v Man Utd 2
4 Everton v Bolton 1
5 Leeds v Aston Villa X
6 Leicester v Sheff Wed 1
7 Tottenham v Arsenal 2
8 Wimbledon v W Ham X
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION
9 Barn'gham v Tranmere 1
10 Bradford v Huddersf'dX
11 Bury v Crewe X
12 Man City v Notts F 1
13 Middlesbro v Stockport1
14 Oxford v Sunderland 2
15 Port Vale v Wolves 2
16 QPR v Reading 1
17 Sheff Utd v Charlton 1
18 Swindon v Ipswich 1
19 West Brom v Stoke 1
SECOND DIVISION
20 Blackpool v Wrexham X
21 Bristol R v Bournem'th X
22 Chesterfield v York 1
23 Fulham v Bristol C 2
24 Grimsby v Preston X
25 Millwall v Luton 1
26 North'pton v Walsall 2
27 Oldham v Burnley 1
28 Southend v Wycombe 1
29 Watford v Plymouth 1
30 Wigan v Carlisle 1
THIRD DIVISION
31 Chester v Scunthorpe X
32 Exeter v Torquay 1
33 Leyton O v Doncaster 1
34 Macclesf'd v Rochdale2
35 Mansfield v Lincoln 2
36 Notts Co v Hartlepool 1
37 Peterboro v Brighton 1
38 Rotherham v Hull 1
39 Scarboro v Darlington 1
BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION
40 Aberdeen v Motherwell1
41 Dunfermline v Hearts 2
42 Hibernian v Kilmarn'k 1
43 Rangers v Dundee U 1
44 St J'stone v Celtic 2
FIRST DIVISION
45 Airdrie v St Mirren 1
46 Ayr v G Morton X
47 Dundee v Falkirk 1
48 Hamilton v Partick 1
49 Stirling v Raith 2

TREBLE CHANCE (home teams): Barnsley, Leeds, Wimbledon, Bradford City, Bury, Blackpool, Bristol Rovers, Grimsby, Chester, Ayr. BEST DRAWS: Barnsley, Wimbledon, Bury, Blackpool, Chester. FIXED ODDS: Homes: Birmingham, Swindon, Chesterfield, Southend, Rotherham. Aways: Manchester United, Sunderland, Bristol City. Draws: Bury, Blackpool, Chester.

Saturday January 3
Coupon No, fixture, forecast
FA CUP THIRD ROUND
1 Arsenal v Port Vale 1
2 Barnsley v Bolton X
3 Blackburn v Wigan 1
4 Bournem'th v Hudd'f'd 2
5 Bristol R v Ipswich X
6 Cardiff v Oldham 2
7 Charlton v Notts F 1
8 Chelt'tonv W v Reed'g 2
9 Colch'Hered'd v Tranm 2
10 Crewe v Birmingham 1
11 C Palace v Scunthorpe (Illusion) 1
12 Darlington v Wolves 2
13 Derby v South'pton 1
14 Grimsby/Chesterfield v Norwich 2
15 Leeds v Oxford 1
16 Leic/N'pton or Bas'ka 1
17 Liverpool v Coventry 1
18 Man City v Bradford C 1
19 Peterboro v Walsall X
20 Portsmouth v A Villa 2
21 Preston/Notts Co v St'p't 2
22 QPR v Middlesbrough X
23 Roth'h'm v Sunderl'd X
24 Sheff Utd v Bury 1
25 Swin/Camb or Stev'ge 1
26 Torquay/Watford v Sheffield Wed 2
27 West Brom v Stoke 1
28 W Ham v Lincoln/Emley1
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE SECOND DIVISION
29 Blackpool v Bristol C 2
30 Gillingham v Burnley X
31 Southend v Luton 1
THIRD DIVISION
32 Exeter v Barnet 1
33 Macclesf'ld v Brighton 2
34 Mansfield v Rochdale 2
SCOTTISH LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION
35 Aberdeen v Dundee U X
36 Dunf'mline v St J'stone 1
37 Kilm'k v Motherwell 1
FIRST DIVISION
38 Airdrie v Partick 1
39 Dundee v Raith 1
40 Hamilton v Ayr 1
41 St Mirren v G Morton X
42 Stirling v Falkirk X
CONFERENCE
43 Gaiesh'd v Kidd'm'ter 2
44 Halifax v Dover 1
45 Hednesf'd v Farnboro 1
46 Leek v Kettering 1
47 Morecambe v Hayes 1
48 Woking v Welling 1
49 Yeovil v Southport X

TREBLE CHANCE (home teams): Barnsley, Bristol Rovers, Peterborough, Queens Park Rangers, Rotherham, Gillingham, Aberdeen, St Mirren, Stirling, Yeovil. FIXED ODDS: Homes: Arsenal, Derby, Sheffield United, West Brom, Exeter. Aways: Huddersfield, Wolves, Aston Villa. Draws: Barnsley, Bristol Rovers, Peterborough. BEST DRAWS: Barnsley, Bristol Rovers, Peterborough, Queens Park Rangers, Aberdeen.

Because of the heavy Christmas mail, Littlewoods recommend that coupons for December 20, 26, 27 and January 3 should be posted together to reach them by this Saturday

CRICKET: ENGLAND SECURE PLACE IN FINAL AFTER INSPIRATIONAL DISPLAY BY STEWART

Hollioake remains composed in tight finish

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN SHARIAH

SHARJAH (England won toss): England beat Pakistan by eight runs

THRILLINGLY, yet expertly, England claimed their place in the Champions Trophy final after beating a Pakistan side that apparently had the game at their mercy. Eight runs in the end was as good as a country mile.

At 99 for two, with Saeed Anwar and Ijaz Ahmed hitting the cover off the ball, Pakistan had only to bat out the overs. Even three wickets later, when Matthew Fleming came on, they needed 65 from 13 overs, nothing out of the ordinary. However, the England catching matched the bowling, and Pakistan went the same way as India, beaten by seven runs last Thursday.

Two moments were of supreme importance. Wasim Akram, short of form as he is, remains a big hitter and when he swung Adam Hollioake towards the leg-side boundary he looked up, expecting runs. What he saw appalled him. Dougie Brown, picking up the flight of a ball he had "lost" in the floodlights two overs before, took off to hold a superb catch a foot off the ground.

Manzoor Akhtar had batted with exemplary sense, and now was his chance to add a match-winning innings to the four wickets that he had taken earlier. His nerve failed him. Dropping the ball down to point, as Fleming denied him room to bash through the offside, he set off for a run nobody else could see, and returned to find that Nick Knight's throw had beaten him back.

Pakistan could still have won. When the penultimate over began they needed 18, and Hollioake's failure to hit the stumps as he fielded off his own bowling conceded the single that gave Azhar Mahmood the strike. With successive balls he scored two, two and four, a thumping drive that bisected the men at deep cover.

Two more shots like that, and they were a single away from victory. Hollioake, cannily, held back the next ball and Azhar was through his stroke before it arrived. Up the ball went, higher and higher, eventually landing in Stewart's gloves as he ran from behind the stumps to take the catch near short mid-wicket — and he wasn't done yet.

The next ball, the last of Hollioake's quota, Saqlain pushed at and then lurched from his crease, more in hope than expectation. What a fool he looked as Stewart leapt forward from his haunches, gathered the ball and flicked it back into the stumps. Steve Bucknor, the square-leg umpire, called for a television replay but Saqlain was wandering off, surrounded by jubilant England fielders, when the decision was upheld.

For the second time in the tournament England had defended their total, in this case a modest one of 215 for nine. All the bowlers played a full hand. Brown and Headley struck with the new ball, Ealham recovered from an over costing 16 to bowl with his customary tightness, Croft took two important wickets and Hollioake's ability to restrict the batsmen at the death was truly outstanding.

For a while it all looked rather different. Anwar, fresh from his hundred the day before, dazzled in going to fifty from 55 balls, and when Ijaz greeted Croft by blasting the second of his two vast sixes, Pakistan were beginning to make the target look very small. Then, in successive balls, Anwar played on, trying to cut, and Ijaz drove to long-on. England had given themselves a second chance and how well they took it.

Their own innings fell away after Stewart and Alistair Brown had given them an excellent start. From 108 for one in the 24th over they were baffled by Manzoor's wrist spin and Saqlain's more orthodox fingers. Their spinners, three of them back-of-the-hand merchants, were responsible for bowling all but 13 overs on a pitch that was being used for the third time.

England will not mind playing on it once more. They have won three games out of three and will not feel intimidated on Friday, whoever their opponents are. Only this much is certain: if West Indies beat India today they will go through.

IAN WALDIE



Stewart pulls to the boundary during his brisk innings of 47 yesterday

TABLE

	P	W	L	Pts	RR
England	3	3	0	6	+0.233
West Indies	2	1	1	2	+0.233
Pakistan	3	1	2	2	-0.232
India	2	0	2	0	-0.245

SCOREBOARD FROM SHARJAH

England won toss

ENGLAND

A D Brown c Moin b Saqlain ..... 41 (47 balls, 1 six, 4 fours)
†A J Stewart b Manzoor ..... 47 (68 balls, 2 sixes, 3 fours)
N V Knight b Manzoor ..... 18 (36 balls)
G A Hick b Manzoor ..... 40 (53 balls, 2 fours)
G P Thorpe run out (Ijaz/Moin) ..... 3 (4 balls)
*A J Hollioake c Shahid b Manzoor ..... 17 (27 balls, 1 four)
M A Ealham c and b Saqlain ..... 6 (15 balls)
D R Brown not out ..... 18 (30 balls)
M V Fleming c and b Saqlain ..... 0 (1 ball)
R D B Croft c Ijaz b Saqlain ..... 6 (14 balls)
D W Headley not out ..... 6 (8 balls)
Extras (b 1, lb 4, w 7, nb 1) 13
Total (9 wkts, 50 overs) 215

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-71 (Stewart 25), 2-108 (Knight 14), 3-121 (Hick 9), 4-126 (Hick 11), 5-168 (Hick 32), 6-180 (Ealham 4), 7-185 (D R Brown 3), 8-185 (D R Brown 3), 9-203 (D R Brown 13)

BOWLING: Wasim Akram 6-1-34-0 (nb 1, w 1; 1 six, 3 fours); Azhar Mehmood 7-1-31-0 (w 1; 3 fours; 5-1-24-0, 2-0-7-0); Saqlain Mushtaq 10-1-26-4 (w 2; 1 four; 5-0-14-1, 5-1-12-3); Mushtaq Ahmed 10-0-49-0 (w 2; 1 six, 2 fours; one spell); Manzoor Akhtar 10-0-50-4 (w 1; 1 six, 2 fours; one spell); Shahid Afridi 7-0-26-0 (one spell).

Score after 15 overs: 78-1.

PAKISTAN

Aamir Sohail b Headley 1
Shahid Afridi b D R Brown ..... 0 (1 ball)
Saeed Anwar b Croft ..... 54 (66 balls, 1 six, 5 fours)
Ijaz Ahmed c Croft b Ealham ..... 41 (66 balls, 2 sixes, 3 fours)
Akhtar Sarfraz b Croft ..... 20 (32 balls, 3 fours)
Manzoor Akhtar run out (Knight) ..... 44 (66 balls, 2 fours)
†Moin Khan c Knight b Fleming ..... 10 (19 balls)
*Wasim Akram c D R Brown b Hollioake ..... 4 (9 balls, 1 four)
Azhar Mahmood c Stewart b Hollioake ..... 12 (9 balls, 1 four)
Saqlain Mushtaq run out (Stewart) ..... 9 (14 balls, 1 four)
Mushtaq Ahmed not out ..... 0 (0 balls)
Extras (lb 5, w 5, nb 2) 12
Total (49 overs) 207

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1 (Aamir 1), 2-5 (Saeed 4), 3-99 (Ijaz 41), 4-99 (Akhtar Sarfraz 0), 5-134 (Manzoor 12), 6-152 (Manzoor 18), 7-177 (Manzoor 38), 8-185 (Azhar 2), 9-207 (Saqlain 9).

BOWLING (one spell each): D R Brown 5-0-29-1 (2 sixes, 1 four); Headley 8-0-33-1 (nb 2; 5 fours); Ealham 10-1-39-1 (w 1; 5 fours); Croft 10-1-39-2 (w 2; 1 six, 1 four); Hollioake 10-0-35-2 (w 1; 2 fours); Fleming 8-0-27-1 (w 1; 2 fours).

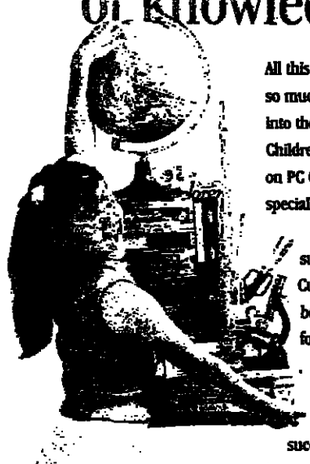
Score after 15 overs: 79-2

Match award: Manzoor Akhtar.

Umpires: S A Bucknor (West Indies) and K T Francis (Sri Lanka). Third umpire: C J Mackley (South Africa). Referee: P J P Burge (Australia).

☐ *Compiled by Bill Frindall / Cricinfo*

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Multimedia

EDUCATION MEETS IMAGINATION

Women look for cutting edge

FROM THRASY PETROPOULOS IN PUNE

THE England women's cricket team continue their World Cup campaign today when they take on Ireland here, but, although they are expected to win comfortably and have three successive victories behind them, areas of concern remain.

There are too many ordinary teams in the preliminary rounds to produce high-class cricket. Only England, Australia, New Zealand, India, and, possibly, South Africa, have the ability to win the tournament. The likes of Denmark and Pakistan have been nothing more than cannon fodder, as England displayed by scoring over 300 runs in 50 overs against both teams — yet in neither match did England threaten to bowl out the opposition.

Pakistan and Denmark are poor sides. There are only around 100 women cricketers in Denmark and many of the Pakistan team had never played a game lasting 50 overs a side before this tournament. However, Denmark lost only seven wickets against England and Pakistan, who Denmark dismissed for 66 in Mysore last week, lost just three in scoring 146 against England. Australia took all ten Pakistan wickets for 27 runs on Sunday.

Karen Smithies, captaining England for a second World Cup, said: "We were disappointed with ourselves against Pakistan, where the batsmen were simply stonewalling and we did nothing about it. We are missing an out-and-out strike bowler and we certainly missed Kathryn Leng against Pakistan, when we didn't have a leg spinner. We're a stock-bowling side rather than an attacking one."

Leng has recovered from a twisted ankle and will play today. Jan Brittin resumes her opening partnership with Charlotte Edwards and Barbara Daniels is recalled.

Ireland benefited enormously from sharing the points with Australia in their washed-out game in Madras last week and their win over Denmark and a final group match against Pakistan should ensure them of fourth place in pool A and the last quarter-final spot.

☐ India beat Holland by 93 runs in group B to enter the quarter-finals. India scored 175 for seven in their 50 overs and Holland mustered only 82 for nine. Also in group B, New Zealand were victorious by 198 runs over the West Indies, who collapsed to 55 all out in 28.4 overs.

Captain Lara causes unrest

WARWICKSHIRE have attempted to quell members' unrest at the appointment of Brian Lara as captain for next summer. In a letter to all 15,000 members, Dennis Amiss, the chief executive, admitted it had been a very difficult decision to take the captaincy away from Tim Munton on fitness grounds.

Munton missed all of last season with a back injury and Warwickshire claim they "would not be certain about Tim's real cricketing fitness until he took the field of play". Amiss said: "We therefore felt unable to appoint him captain for 1998." Warwickshire also considered Nick Knight, the vice-captain, and Neil Smith, captain in last season's NatWest Trophy final.

WORD WATCHING

Answers from page 41

SHENANDOAH
(c) A river, part of the Great Appalachian Valley, chiefly in Virginia. The haunting song or sea shanty goes. "Oh Shenandoah, you rolling river." And later on somewhat incongruously and anthropomorphically, "I love your daughter" and "I long to hear you, Roll away, you rolling river". During the Civil War, Confederate general Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson won immortality during his Valley Campaign.

MERCALLI
(a) The eponym of an Italian geologist who devised a 12-point scale to express intensity at any place. *Daily Columnist*, 1973: "An earthquake has only one magnitude but can have several intensities on the Mercalli scale."

HACKAMORE
(c) A halter of horsehair or rawhide, having a nosepiece fitted to serve as the head of a bridle. Dunlevy, 1971: "Her only riding equipment was a rawhide hackamore already on the horse's head."

VERBUNKO
(c) A Hungarian dance, dating from the late 18th century. It was originally danced by Hussars in uniform in order to attract recruits. Later it became popular in the theatre. The music has two contrasting elements, a slow "lassu" and a quick, fiery "friss".

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Ne7! and if 1 ... Qxg4 2 Rxh7 is mate.

TELEVISION CHOICE

Solid second-hand advice

Deals on Wheels
Channel 4, 8.00pm

This is the last in the series on buying and selling second-hand cars and a good moment to hail the success of what looked like an unpromising idea. The danger was limiting the appeal to the small number of car buffs while ignoring the great majority of motorists whose tastes are more mundane. In the event the show has managed to cater for both, so that tonight a Volkswagen Beetle convertible and a Triumph Spitfire share the billing with a humble Ford Fiesta. Whatever the car there has been the fascination of discovering whether the seller finds a buyer and gets the asking price. But the undoubted stars have been not the machines but the straight-talking experts, Mike Brewer and Richard Sutton. If a model is prone to rust, or oil leaks or dodgy gearboxes, they have never flinched from saying so.

Vanessa's Day with . . .
Channel 5, 8.00pm

Danny La Rue welcomes Vanessa Feltz to his glamorous Hampshire home for a pre-lunch glass of champagne, memories of Noël Coward and Judy Garland at his piano and reflections on approaching his 50th year in showbusiness. He may dismiss his act as "a feller in a frock" but he is still one of the best female impersonators around, as Southampton audiences will discover as he plays Baroness Voluptuous in *Cinderella*. The Mayflower Theatre is on the itinerary, as, less predictably, is the Roman Catholic church where Danny worships. He says he feels sad for people who have no religion. *Face to Face* this show is not and Feltz's luvviness can be cloying. But it is impossible to dislike a man overjoyed that he can go on stage at 70 and make people laugh.

Timewatch: In Search of Cleopatra
BBC2, 9.00pm

Wittingly or not this profile of the Egyptian queen makes an ideal companion piece to the excellent *I, Caesar* series which has been running on Saturday evenings. In the course of *I, Caesar* we have met Cleopatra as the lover of Julius Caesar and Mark Antony but it is good to have a fuller portrait. The trouble is that so little is known about her, not least her appearance. She could have been the beautiful seductress as portrayed by Elizabeth Taylor, though Plutarch, for one, says not. She could, though there is no evidence for this, have been black. Trying to separate sparse fact from liberal speculation, the film presents her as a clever politician determined to keep her beloved Egypt out of the clutches of the Roman Empire. When she failed she killed herself with a snake bite, though even that has been disputed.



Cleopatra on her death bed (BBC2, 9pm)

Picture This: Accidental Hero
BBC2, 9.50pm

Once again this unsung half-hour documentary series has come up with a gem. From the tragedy of the *Herald of Free Enterprise*, which capsized off Zeebrugge with the loss of 193 lives, there emerged one undisputed hero. Andrew Parker helped to save his wife, small daughter and a score of other passengers by making himself into a stepping stone across a six foot wide chasm. The media got to hear about him and the "human bridge" made headlines across the world. Parker was awarded the George Medal. But the film reveals him, more than ten years later, as a reluctant hero for whom the experience has brought far more pain than glory. The media attention plagued him for three years afterwards and when it subsided trauma and depression set in. He was made redundant. As he tries to rebuild his life, he worries that he has still not managed to cry. Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

Ads R Us
Radio 2, 9.30pm

I really must have a word with the Controller of Radio 2 about underlings who use grotesque distortions of the English language employed by the retail trade. But once you get past the title this is an entertaining hour which celebrates, if you will allow the word, the short British history of commercials on television. The first one, for Gibbs SR toothpaste, was transmitted at 8.12pm on September 22, 1955. I expect it was about 8.13 before the first joke about ITV commercials being better than the programmes was made. This range over the territory, presented by Lorraine Chase, uses anecdotes very well to illustrate how commercials have become increasingly sophisticated over the years, particularly in their use of humour.

Literary Houses
Radio 4, 2.30pm

The connection between individual writers and the houses where they lived or worked has been done rather well in book form, but this is the first radio series on the subject that I can recall. Four houses are featured, each visited by Iain Burnside, the pianist who is also an accomplished broadcaster. There may be some surprise that the first house in the series is Maxgate, which was the home in Dorset of Thomas Hardy and which Hardy himself designed. One might have expected a less well-trodden path to be the first to be explored, but on the other hand Hardy is perhaps the name most likely to attract a good audience for the opening programme. Each programme will have readings from the works of the writers. Peter Barnard

RADIO 1

6.30am Kevin Greening and Zoë Ball 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley. Includes 12.30pm Newsbeat 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Dave Pearce 6.15 Newsbeat 6.30 Evening Session with Steve Lamacq 8.30 Digital Update 8.40 John Peel 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs 1.00am Clive Warren 4.00 Chris Moyles

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thrower 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Richard Stilgoe's Classical Gas 8.00 Nigel Ogden 9.00 The Prohibition Years. George Melly introduces more stories and music from the dry years 9.30 Ads R Us. Presented by Lorraine Chase. See Choice 10.30 Richard Allinson 12.05am Steve Madden 3.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme 9.00 David Mellor 12.00 Midday with Mair 2.00pm Rusco on Five 4.00 Nationwide with Julian Worricker 7.00 News Extra. Presented by David McNeil 7.30 The Tuesday Match. Reports on tonight's action 10.00 News Talk with Nigel Cassidy 11.00 News Extra with David McNeil 12.00 After Hours 2.00am Up All Night with Rhod Sharp 5.00 Morning Reports

VIRGIN RADIO

5.00am Jeremy Clark 7.00 Chris Evans 10.00 (FM) Robin Banks (AM) Graham Dene 1.00pm (FM) Nick Abbot (MW) Nicky Horne 4.00 Russ 'n' Jono 7.00 (FM) Paul Coyte (AM) Caimin Jones 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00am Richard Porter

TALK RADIO

6.30am Paul Ross and Carol McGiffin 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Deeley 7.00 Anna Raeburn 9.00 James Whale 1.00am Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

6.00am Newsday 6.30 Europe Today 7.00 News 7.15 Off the Shelf. The Grass Is Singing 7.30 Options 8.00 News 8.10 Pause for Thought 8.15 Concert Hall 9.00 News; News in German (648 only) 9.05 World Business Report 9.15 The Deal with Drugs 9.30 Literature File: The Mill on the Floss 9.45 Sports Roundup 10.00 Newsdesk 10.30 On Screen 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Civilization 12.00 News 12.05pm World Business Report 12.15 Britain Today 12.30 Health Matters 12.45 Sports Roundup 1.00 Newshour 2.00 News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 Multitrack Hit List 3.00 News; News in German (648 only) 3.05 Sports Roundup 3.15 Westway 3.30 The Greenfield Collection 4.00 News 4.15 Wildtrack 4.30 The World Today; News in German (648 only) 4.45 Britain Today 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Sports Roundup 6.00 Newsdesk 6.30 One Planet; News in German (648 only) 7.00 News 7.01 Outlook 7.25 Pause for Thought 7.30 Megamix 8.00 Newshour 9.00 News 9.05 World Business Report 9.15 Britain Today 9.30 Meridian Live 10.00 Newsdesk 10.30 The World Today 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.00 News 11.05 Outlook 11.30 Megamix 12.00 Newsdesk 12.30am The Farming World 12.45 Britain Today 1.00 Newsdesk 1.30 Discovery 2.00 Newsday 2.30 Meridian Live 3.00 News 3.05 World Business Report 3.15 Sports Roundup 3.30 One Planet 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Europe Today 5.00 Newsday 5.30 Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Alan Mann. News and travel reports, including Trumpet Alarm Call and Breakfast Baroque 9.00 Henry Kelly. Includes the Classic Masterpiece; Hall of Fame Hour and a recipe for home-made vegetarian mincemeat 1.00pm Listener Request Hour with Jane Jones 2.00 Concerto. Mozart (Piano Concerto No 20 in D minor) 3.00 Jamie Crick 6.30 Newsnight 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven with John Brunning 8.00 Evening Concert. Liszt (Mazeppa); Kodaly (Variations on a Hungarian Folksong; Hary Janos Suite); Miklos Rosza (Hungarian Nocturne); Bartok (The Miraculous Mandarin) 10.00 Michael Mappin. Includes at 11.35 Nocturne 2.00am Concerto 3.00 Mark Griffiths

RADIO 3

6.00am **On Air,** with Stephanie Hughes. Includes Respighi (The Pines of Rome); Bach (Italian Concerto in F); Poulenc (Les Chemins de L'Amour); Beethoven (Calm Sea and a Prosperous Voyage); Shostakovich (Overture-Waltz Cheryomushki); Brahms (Tragic Overture)
9.00 **Morning Collection,** with Peter Hobday. J.C. Bach (Sinfonia Concertante in C); Chopin (Scherzo No 1 in B minor); Dvořák (Serenade for Strings)
10.00 **Musical Encounters,** with Mary Miller. Mozart (Ave Verum Corpus); Vivaldi (Viola d'Amore Concerto in D minor); Strauss (Wie du warst! Wie du bist, Der Rosenkavalier); Bartok (Dance Suite); Mozart (Symphony No 29 in A); Villa-Lobos (String Quartet No 7); Heinichen (Concerto in F)
12.00 **Composer of the Week: Prokofiev**
1.00pm **The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert.** The Emperor Quartet, with Anya Alexeev, piano, performs Gubaidulina (Chaconne for Piano); Prokofiev (Visions Fugitives for Piano, selection); Shostakovich (Piano Quintet) (r)
2.00 **The BBC Orchestras.** BBC Philharmonic, Prokofiev (Suite Lieutenant Kije); Hindemith (Symphonic Dances), under Yan Pascal Tortelier. Shostakovich (Symphony No 4); under Vasili Sinaisky
4.00 **Voices.** Susan Sharpe introduces settings of works by the German poet Heine. With Turid Moberg, mezzo, Susie Allen, piano, Richard Edgar Wilson, tenor, Eugene Asti, piano (r)
4.45 **Music Machine,** with Verity Sharp
5.00 **In Tune,** with Sean Rafferty. Includes music from English, American, French, Finnish, Estonian and Czech composers. Plus a look at the premiere of *Saturday Night*, Stephen Sondheim's first musical
7.45 **Performance on 3 (Sounding the Century).** Live from the Queen's Hall, Edinburgh. A concert of music for two pianos. Debussy (En Blanc et Noir); Poulenc (Sonata for two pianos); Ravel (La Valse) performed by Martin Ruscoe and Peter Donohue 8.35 Brilliant Creatures. A profile of Edith Sitwell 8.55 Concert part two. Satie (La Belle Excentrique); Stravinsky (The Rite of Spring)
9.50 **Postscript: Role Play.** Michael Billington talks to Alexandra Gilbreath and Harriet Walter about the challenges of *Hedda Gabler* (2/4) (r)
10.15 **BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra,** under Emilio Pomarico. Elliott Carter (Variations for Orchestra)
10.45 **Night Waves.** Richard Coles reports as the Royal National Theatre's production of *Peter Pan* opens with Jenny Agutter, Ian McKellen and Alec McCowen. Plus a look at the various new films focusing on the Chinese rule of Tibet. The programme asks: what makes a fashionable liberal cause in the arts?
11.30 **Composer of the Week: Goehr** (r)
12.30am **Jazz Notes.** Digby Fairweather continues the musical tribute to Ronnie Scott with a concert given by the John Critchinson Quartet: John Critchinson, piano, Pat Crumly, saxophone, Leon Clayton, double bass, John Piper, drums
1.00 **Through the Night,** with Donald Macleod

RADIO 4

5.55am (LW) **Shipping Forecast** 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.58 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Call Ed Stourton. Call 0171-580 4444 with your questions for the guest of the day
10.00 (FM) News; And Here's the Tape to Prove It. The geologist Dave Martill and his colleagues follow a trail in search of buried pterodactyl eggs, hoping to find traces of an ancient past (3/4)
10.00 (LW) News; Daily Service
10.15 (LW) On This Day, with Geoffrey Wheeler
10.30 Woman's Hour. Introduced by Jenni Murray
11.30 **Medicine Now.** A look behind-the-scenes of the National Health Service with Geoff Watts
12.00 News; You and Yours. Consumer news and current affairs with John Waite
12.25pm Random Edition. Peter Snow takes a look at stories from the Isle of Wight Herald for August 12, 1910 (4/6) 12.55 Weather
1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke
1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Thirty Minute Theatre: Filet de Sole Veronique, by Jyll Bradley. A culinary comedy set in Paris. With Anna Carteret, Adjoa Andoh and Alison Pettit
2.30 Literary Houses. See Choice (1/4)
3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift, with Daire Brehan
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Paul Vaughan talks to the Irish author Joseph O' Connor about his latest novel, *The Salesman*, and reviews *Shadow Dancer*, a novel by ITN's Northern Ireland reporter, Tom Bradby
4.45 Short Story: The Innocent, by Graham Greene, read by Cornelius Garrett
5.00 PM, with Charlie Lee-Potter and Jon Sopel 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 North East of Eden. The comedy series written by Peter Kerry. With Joan Sims, Rebecca Front and James Garbutt (3/6) (r)
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 File on 4. Liz Carney reports on topical issues at home and overseas
8.00 Science Now. A look at the latest scientific discoveries and developments with Peter Evans (r)
8.30 The Network. Alun Lewis examines Murphy's Law as it applies to today's technology. Machines are often blamed for everything, but whose fault is it really? (5/5)
9.00 In Touch, with Peter White
9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) 9.59 Weather
10.00 The World Tonight, with Isabel Hilton
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Candide. Anton Lesser reads Voltaire's classic satire of the 1700s. Translated by John Butt, abridged by Andrew Simpson (7/8)
11.00 Mediumwave. This week's events in the media (r)
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament. A roundup of the day's events in Westminster
11.30 (FM) Sentimental Journey. Loyd Grossman returns to Marblehead, Massachusetts (5/6) (r)
12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: Conversations with My Agent. Written by Rob Long and read by Rob Morrow (2/5)
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.8; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

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If not bad publicity, it is certainly fawlty

REVIEW



Joe Joseph

Assuming that you have now watched seven episodes of Hotel (BBC1), you can understand why chief executives despair when advertising agencies urge them to increase their promotion budget; why businessmen say that they know that half the money they spend on advertising is wasted, but they don't know which half. And the reason you can empathise is that normally you would have to slip somebody fat wads of folding money to keep the sort of bad publicity that is *Hotel* away from the nation's television screens.

Week after week, we have been peeking under the carpet of an hotel that is eerily like *Fawlty Towers* in its grabby attitude to guests, and in the way hot-headed staff scream at each other. There is just one key difference: the Adelphi hotel actually exists. That's why you have been assuming that the local Salvation Army hostel would need to be full before anyone visiting Liverpool stayed in the *Adelphi* again. But it turns out that business at the Adelphi is booming as a result of this series. Bookings are up 20 per cent. This is like running an advertising campaign that says "Heinz ketchup tastes like gerbil poop" and then seeing sales zoom. What conclusions should businessmen draw about their advertising budgets now?

Last night, staff were rude about guests who had been evacuated in a bomb scare; the head chef once again abused diners (especially vegetarians), and the banqueting manager, Brian Birchall; guests, complaining about the rudeness of the waitresses at breakfast, were dismissed with the explanation "it's a high-volume operation"; the police were called because no Adelphi staff had noticed a man walking into the breakfast room and helping himself to a purse while its owner was helping herself to bacon; porters refused to unload suitcases for a coach party unless the coach driver coughed up 60p per bag; one of the porters, Keith, scrutinised the luggage labels of new arrivals in search of an address he might like to visit for his next holidays (once he has chosen his destination, he befriends the guest until he extracts an invitation to stay).

If you don't eat meat, can't carry your own suitcase but don't happen to be carrying any loose change; if you live in an enticing villa in Cap d'Antibes; if you prefer your waitresses to be civil; if you find it offensive to be charged twice the published room rate because rooms in the city are scarce; and if your pin-sharp hearing enables you to overhear rude comments staff might be making about you the minute your back is turned, then you are probably the guest for whom a stay at the Adelphi would be hell. Clearly, many people don't at all mind spending a weekend in hell. No wonder church attendances are falling.

As far as the BBC is concerned, the series has been a huge hit: eight million viewers. The Adelphi thinks so too. Its owner is considering inviting the cameras back for a second series (*The Adelphi: The Nightmare Continues*? — it's just an idea). But as it becomes trickier every day to avoid a camera crew making yet another "docu-soap" about the Circle Line — or your newspaper shop, or the local sandwich bar, or taxi drivers, anything — this flood of fly-on-the-wall series is drowning hapless bystanders: the Adelphi staff have presumably agreed to be filmed (many play up to the cameras), but have all those drunk guests, who we see making fools of themselves after parties in the banqueting hall? They aren't, of course, the first people to act like twits in front of large television audiences, but at least Noel Edmonds and Dale Winton get paid well for doing it.

Michael Palin has been smart enough to wangle trips to more exotic destinations than Liverpool. Even in **Palin on the Redpath** (BBC2), when he was setting out to learn more about a painting of Menton that he bought some years ago, by the Scottish artist Anne Redpath, he announced halfway through the programme: "The awful truth is becoming clear: to find out more about Anne Redpath I might be forced to go to the South of France." Yes, of course his tongue was in his cheek as he was saying this. But not quite as deep into his cheek as it might have been in the days before he had been around the world, from Pole to Pole, and around the Rim.

Palin has now elbowed himself into a position where he only needs to pick up any item in his house to spawn another foreign jaunt, along with accompanying television programme. Maybe we can look forward to trips to Milan to learn more about Palin's Armani trousers; to New Zealand to learn how his kiwi fruit was grown; to China, to visit the factory that made his T-shirt; even to Liverpool, to trace the manufacturer of the moptop Beatle wig he bought in 1965. But he should avoid staying at the Adelphi, unless he wants Keith, the porter, to read his address off his luggage labels and turn up to stay for New Year's Eve.

Nigel Ellacott and Peter Robbins are two reasons why pantomime still flourishes in Britain. With their reach-for-the-skies Marge Simpson wigs, eyelashes like lawn rakes, outrageous ballgowns, and a stage patter perfected over 16 years of playing Cinderalla's ugly sisters, Ellacott and Robbins were the unexpected stars of Channel 4's **Pantoland**, which ended its four-part run last night. They play the same roles, year in and year out. The jokes don't change either. When they arrive at the fancy dress ball — dressed as a hat and as a high-heeled shoe — Buttons asks what they have come as. "Hat!" says one sister. "Shoe!" snaps the other. "Bless you!" says Buttons. It's a pretty bad joke. But still not as bad as the Adelphi.

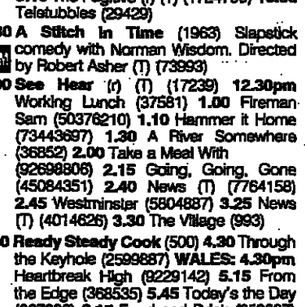
BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (71697)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (85719)
9.00 Good Living (1165806)
9.25 Style Challenge (1071413)
9.50 Kilroy (T) (2882603)
10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (1596868)
10.55 The Really Useful Show (T) (8588142)
11.35 Change That (3877993)
12.00 News (T) and weather (9228500)
12.05pm Call My Bluff (2502993)
12.35 Give Us A Clue (5102581)
1.00 News (T) and weather (68806)
1.30 Regional News (17344622)
1.40 The Weather Show (86175581)
1.45 Neighbours (T) (72237036)
2.10 Petrocelli William Shatner and Harrison Ford guest (r) (1880326)
3.00 Vets In Practice (r) (T) (1413)
3.30 Playdays (7601790) **3.50** Arthur (7612806) **4.15** Fudge (3135697) **4.35** It'll Never Work (2590516) **5.00** Newsround (T) (6181451) **5.10** Aquila (T) (6134239)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (863581)
6.00 News (T) and weather (535)
6.30 Regional News (887)
7.00 Holiday A cruise on the QE2; on safari in Tanzania; sunshine in the Algarve; gliding over Herefordshire; and Florida's Everglades (T) (9622)
7.30 EastEnders Cindy goes to court for the preliminary custody hearing, but Ros urges Ian not to attend (T) (871)
8.00 Auntie's Natural Bloomers Terry Wogan with BBC animal archive outtakes (T) (2142)
8.30 A Question of Sport Sue Barker puts the questions to David Ginola, Chris Eubank, Dalton Grant, Adam Hollioake and captains John Parrott and Ally McCoist (T) (4177)
9.00 News (T) and weather (3429)
9.30 Crimewatch UK Nick Ross and Jill Dando appeal for help from the public to identify three robbers who murdered a delivery driver before stealing his van, and a man believed to be responsible for a spate of rapes in the Essex area (T) (745871)
10.20 Carry on Columbus (1992) with Jim FILM Dale in the title role, and a cast including Rik Mayall, Nigel Planer, Julian Clary, Tony Slattery, Alexei Sayle and Keith Allen. Last and least of the series. Directed by Gerald Thomas (T) (1844264)
WALES: 10.20 Week In, Week Out (916882) **10.50** FILM: Carry on Columbus (7630326) **12.15am** Crimewatch UK Update (9798253) **12.25** FILM: The Opposite Sex (5609765) **1.45** News (7119901) **1.50** BBC News 24
11.45 Crimewatch UK Update (T) (785852)
11.55 The Opposite Sex (1993) with FILM Courteney Cox and Kevin Pollak. Quirky comedy charting the rocky road to love and commitment travelled by a Jewish confirmed bachelor and his upper-class girlfriend. Directed by Matthew Meshekoff (781061)
1.15am Weather (9509253)
1.20 BBC News 24

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode™ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+™ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. Videoplus+ (™), Pluscode (™) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

BBC2

6.00am Arts: A New Museum at South Kensington (98806) **6.30** Serjeant Musgrave at the Court (38177)
7.00 See Hear Breakfast News (signing and T) (3177790)
7.15 Teletubbies (r) (2364790) **7.40** Yakky Duck (r) (8724351) **8.05** Blue Peter (r) (T) (6853968) **8.30** The Secret Life of Toys (r) (8313993) **8.45** The Record (4741528) **9.10** The Fugitive (r) (T) (1724790) **10.00** Teletubbies (29429)
10.30 A Stitch In Time (1963) Slapstick FILM comedy with Norman Wisdom. Directed by Robert Asher (T) (73993)
12.00 See Hear (r) (T) (17239) **12.30pm** Working Lunch (37581) **1.00** Fireman Sam (50376210) **1.10** Hammer it Home (73443697) **1.30** A River Somewhere (36852) **2.00** Take a Meal With (92698806) **2.15** Going, Going, Gone (45084351) **2.40** News (T) (7764158) **2.45** Westminster (5804887) **3.25** News (T) (4014626) **3.30** The Village (993)
4.00 Ready Steady Cook (500) **4.30** Through the Keyhole (2599887) **WALES: 4.30pm** Heartbreak High (9229142) **5.15** From the Edge (368535) **5.45** Today's the Day (367806) **6.15** Food and Drink (359887) **6.45-9.00** FAW Invitational Cup (95087245) **4.55** Esther: Cosmetic surgery (5805413) **5.30** Today's the Day (264)
6.00 The Fresh Prince of Bel Air (r) (966158)
6.25 Heartbreak High (T) (963332)
7.10 The O Zone Interview with the Spice Girls and the musical highs and lows of 1997 (257852)
7.30 From the Edge Last in series (T) (413)
8.00 University Challenge King's College, London v Nottingham University, for a place in the quarter-finals (9564)
8.30 Food and Drink Crab blinis; champagne under £12 and sparkling wines under £6 (T) (2719)
9.00 Timewatch: In Search of Cleopatra How Egyptian hieroglyphs are shedding light on the life of Cleopatra. Last in series (T) (810603)

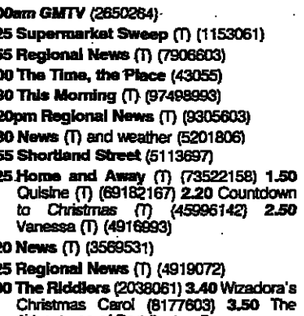


Andrew Parker (9.50pm)

9.50 Picture This: Accidental Hero Andrew Parker, a hero from the sinking of the *Herald of Free Enterprise* (T) (996528)
10.20 Best Friends Last in series (T) (740993)
10.30 Newsnight (T) (214351)
11.15 Seinfeld (T) (118351)
11.40 The Larry Sanders Show Courteney Cox and Rosie Perez guest (T) (501332)
12.00 The Midnight Hour (5908494)
12.25am Weather (3366727)
12.30 Learning Zone: Eve Arnold (8866307) **12.35** 20th-Century Women (6363630) **1.00** The Passionate Statistician (39630) **1.30** Berthe Morisot (83949) **2.00** Movie Making (92765) **4.00** Deutsch Plus (45017) **5.00** Business (63253)

HTV

6.00am GMTV (2650264)
9.25 Supermarket Sweep (T) (1153061)
9.55 Regional News (T) (7906603)
10.00 The Time, the Place (43055)
10.30 This Morning (T) (97498993)
12.20pm Regional News (T) (9305603)
12.30 News (T) and weather (5201806)
12.55 Shortland Street (5113697)
1.25 Home and Away (T) (73522158) **1.50** Cuisine (T) (69182167) **2.20** Countdown to Christmas (T) (45996142) **2.50** Vanessa (T) (4916993)
3.20 News (T) (3569531)
3.25 Regional News (T) (4919072)
3.30 The Riddlers (2038061) **3.40** Wizadora's Christmas Carol (8177603) **3.50** The Adventures of Paddington Bear (8173887) **4.00** Zzzap! Christmas Annuals (7630806) **4.15** Hey Arnold! (3217245) **4.40** The Ward (4697608)
5.10 WALES: Don't Try This at Home, Kids! (9270177)
5.10 Relative Knowledge (9270177)
5.40 News (T) and weather (119887)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (880784)
6.30 Regional News (555)
7.00 Emmerdale Pollard is roped into being Father Christmas (T) (4790)
7.30 WALES: The People's Garden (239)
7.30 The House Christmas Special (239)
8.00 The Bill *Cryer remains convinced that* Jimmy's fall from the roof was not an accident (2/3) (T) (7210)
8.30 The Cook Report Roger Cook on the trail of more consumer swindlers and con-men (T) (9245)



Gibson and Glover (9.00pm)

9.00 Lethal Weapon (1987) with Mel Gibson FILM and Danny Glover. Action drama about two mismatched cops who come to depend on each other in their mission to crack an underground drug ring. Directed by Richard Donner (T) **Continues after the News** (2239)
10.00 News (T) and weather (37662)
10.30 Regional News (T) (474429)
10.40 FILM: Lethal Weapon Conclusion (T) (8738055)
11.40 WALES: Top Sport (622516)
11.40 Tropical Heat (622516)
12.40am Planet Mirth (3377833)
1.10 Late and Loud (6149727)
2.05 The Chart Show (r) (5394291)
3.00 Football Extra (r) (1515272)
3.55 World of Sailing (r) (57766340)
4.25 Sound Bites (24805104)
4.35 The Time, the Place (r) (79912340)
5.00 Pushing the Limits: The Making of Eraser A look behind the scenes at the making of Arnold Schwarzenegger's latest blockbuster (92611)
5.30 News (20727)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (5113697)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (9270177)
6.25-7.00 Central News (148581)
7.30-8.00 Home for Christmas (239)
11.45 Film: State of Grace (10656535)
2.10am Collins and Maconie's Movie Club (8717562)
2.40 The Paul Ross Show (7241388)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.55 Home and Away (7395887)
1.20-1.50 Emmerdale (50564500)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (9270177)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (49326)
7.30-8.00 Blooming Marvellous (239)
11.40 Highlander (622516)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
1.50-2.20 The Fashion Police (69182167)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (9270177)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (603)
6.30-7.00 Relative Knowledge (555)
7.30-8.00 Ambulance! M0(239)
11.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (622516)
5.00am Freescreen (92611)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:
12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (9316719)
12.55-1.25 What's My Line? (5113697)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (9270177)
6.23 Anglia Weather (863622)
6.25-7.00 Anglia News (148581)
7.30-8.00 Out to Lunch with Brian Turner (239)
10.29 Anglia Air Watch (168103)
11.40 First Take (615974)
12.10am Movie Show Specials (5981727)

S4C

Starts: 7.00 The Big Breakfast (58429)
9.00 Something So Right (15871)
9.30 Film: Oh Rosalinda! (56979603)
11.25 Frog (2191142)
11.30 Powerhouse (8072)
12.00pm Sesame Street (87185)
12.30 Ricki Lake (35177)
1.00 Slot Meithrin (50465158)
1.15 Pingu (50380413)
1.30 Film: Heaven Knows Mr Allison (62500)
3.30 Collectors' Lot (531)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (968)
4.30 United Tastes of America (852)
5.00 5 Pump: Uned 5 (6968)
5.30 Countdown (332)
6.00 Newyddion (326516)
6.10 Heno (719448)
7.00 Pobol y Cwm (191531)
7.25 Gwyn A'I Fyd (356448)
8.00 Y Sioe Gelf (5852)
8.30 Newyddion (7887)
9.00 Y Palmant Aur (3581)
10.00 Brookside (520264)
10.35 Frasier (122535)
11.05 Brit Girls (834887)
11.35 Film: Time After Time (56492177)
1.40am-2.30 The Against Nature Debate (9778982)

CHANNEL 4

5.55am Sesame Street (60535)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (58429)
9.00 Something So Right (15871)
9.30 Oh Rosalinda!! (1955) with Michael FILM Redgrave, Ludmilla Tchenna and Dennis Price. An updated version of Strauss's *Die Fledermaus*, set in Vienna during the late 1940s. Directed by Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger (56979603)
11.25 Frog Animation (2191142) **11.30** Powerhouse (T) (8072) **12.00** Sesame Street (87185) **12.30pm** Light Lunch (r) (38993)
1.30 Interrupted Melody (1955) with Eleanor FILM Parker and Glenn Ford. An Oscar-winning biopic of the Australian-born opera star Marjorie Lawrence. Directed by Curtis Bernhardt (62500)
3.30 Collectors' Lot Paper dolls and dresses; French Revolution memorabilia and antique baths (T) (531)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (968) **4.30** Countdown (T) (2411055) **4.55** Ricki Lake: Family reunions (T) (5890581) **5.30** Pet Rescue (T) (332)
6.00 Movievatch Film magazine presented by Johnny Vaughan, featuring reviews of *George of the Jungle*, *Spiceworld — The Movie*, *Starship Troopers* and *Home Alone 3* (245)
6.30 Roseanne (r) (T) (697)
7.00 Channel 4 News (T) (642142)
7.50 Schubert Shorts Cardiff Singer of the World competition winner Christopher Maltman performs *Ständchen* (677852)
8.00 CHOICE Deals on Wheels Advice on buying second-hand cars (6/6) (T) (5852)



Sweeney and Usher (8.30pm)

8.30 Brookside Eleanor is dreading her confession to Louise; Julia and David tread the boards in the local panto; will Lindsey (Claire Sweeney) stay with Peter while Barry (Paul Usher) is around? (T) (7887)
9.00 Time After Time (1979) Malcolm FILM McDowell and David Warner star in this *comedy sci-fi thriller directed by Nicholas* Meyer (T) (57526719)
11.05 Rory Bremner — Who Else? (r) (T) (545993)
11.45 The Against Nature Debate Environmentalists and their critics discuss the issues raised in the three-part *Against Nature* series (409582)
12.35am Best Intentions (1992) Ingmar FILM Bergman's story of his parents' courtship and marriage. With Samuel Froler and *Pernilla August. Directed by Bille August.* In Swedish with English subtitles (30434765)
3.50 Springhill More drama from the Liverpool estate (2640017)
5.15 In Conversation With Henry Blofeld talks to a personality about cricket and life (r) (5272320)

CHANNEL 5

CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE
Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a **Videocrypt** decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are picture: **10.92075 GHz**; sound: **7.02** and **7.20 MHz**

6.00am 5 News Early (4358351)
7.30 Milkshake! (7565210) **7.35** Adventures of the Bush Patrol (r) (9220603) **8.00** Havakazoo (r) (6526567)
8.30 WideWorld: Fragile Planet How did the peacock develop its colourful train? (3/10) (1807018)
9.00 Espresso (7192603) **10.00** Exclusive (r) (4484142) **10.30** Period Rooms (r) (T) (1902662)
11.00 Leeza (3476264) **11.50** Double Espresso (90032535) **12.00** The Bold and the Beautiful (T) (7207054) **12.30pm** Family Affairs (r) (T) (1585500)
1.00 5 News 1.05 Sunset Beach (T) (4241622) **2.00** 5's Company (3373500)
3.30 Without Reservations (1946, b/w) FILM starring John Wayne and Claudette Colbert. A romantic comedy about a soldier selected to play the lead in a film version of a female writer's book. Directed by Mervyn LeRoy (4263239)
5.30 Whittle Quiz (T) (4814264)
6.00 100 Per Cent (4811177)
6.30 Family Affairs While travelling to France, Bill discovers that both his wallet and Charlotte have gone missing (T) (4802429)
7.00 Exclusive (5190142)
7.30 Empire of the Elephant: Skeleton Coast The first in a series of seven wildlife films following in the footsteps of the African elephant (T) (4728413)



Danny La Rue (8.00pm)

8.00 CHOICE Vanessa's Day With Vanessa Feltz spends a day with Danny La Rue (T) (5272790)
8.30 5 News (T) (5195697)
9.00 Trapped in Paradise (1994) starring FILM Nicolas Cage. A Christmas comedy crime caper about three dim brothers, one of whom tries to go straight, but when his two brothers are released from prison he is persuaded to join them in a "can't fail" robbery. Directed by George Gallo (T) (8829516)
11.00 The Jack Docherty Show Comedy and chat (5070622)
11.45 Prisoner: Cell Block H (6157264)
12.45am Live and Dangerous Sports magazine featuring **1.50** motorsport (46679494) and **3.45** Futbol Americas (5915727)
4.35 The Streets of San Francisco starring Karl Malden (T) (5810765)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (7077340)

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● **For further listings see Saturday's *Vision***

SKY 1

6.00am Morning Glory (7621037) **9.00** Hotel (41968) **10.00** Another World (93516) **11.00** Days of Our Lives (99382) **12.00** Oprah Winfrey (78448) **1.00pm** Geraldo (89988) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (71806) **3.00** Jenny Jones (85622) **4.00** Oprah Winfrey (71429) **5.00** Star Trek: Voyager (9177) **6.00** Dream Team (6887) **6.30** Married...with Children (4239) **7.00** The Simpsons (7805) **7.30** Real TV (9351) **8.00** Rescue Paramedics (1546) **8.30** Coppers (5081) **9.00** World's Scariest Police Shootouts 2 (12345) **10.00** The Extraordinary (650721) **11.00** Star Trek: Voyager (94245) **12.00** Late Show (56833) **1.00am** In the Heat of the Night (57543) **2.00** Long Play (6068494)

SKY BOX OFFICE

Sky's pay-per-view movie channels.
To view any film telephone 0990 800888.
Each film costs £2.99 per viewing

SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 26)
Michael Collins (1996)
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60)
Courage Under Fire (1996)
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59)
D3: The Mighty Ducks (1996)
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58)
Dead Presidents (1996)

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 1

6.00am While You Were Sleeping (1995) (65784) **8.00 Robin and the Seven Hoods** (1964) (62158) **10.00 Kansas** (1995) (77055) **11.30 Little Women** (1994) (25061) **1.30pm The Aviator** (1985) (78784) **3.30 Agatha Christie's Dead Man's Folly** (1986) (36790) **5.00 Little Women** (1994) (36332) **7.00 While You Were Sleeping** (1995) (90429) **9.00 Crimes of Passion: Voice from the Grave** (1996) (32210) **10.30 Darkman II: The Return of Durant** (1994) (87965963) **12.05am The Innocent Sleep** (1995) (270123) **1.45 Under the Piano** (1995) (52169633)

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 2

6.00am Smiley (1957) (53326) **8.00 Tad** (1995) (80503) **10.00 Time Warrior: Human Pets** (1985) (85871) **12.00 Next Karate Kid** (1994) (76351) **2.00pm Farewell My Lovely** (1944) (23326) **4.00 Sky Palace** (1994) (2251) **6.00 Tad** (1995) (22887) **8.00 Cold Equations** (1996) (91429) **10.05 The Juror** (1996) (83459054) **12.10am Don Juan De Marco** (1995) (130320) **1.50 Village of the Damned** (1995) (963185) **3.30 Bear** (1985) (9553340) **4.55 Willy Fogg: 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea** (7425765)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm Alexander's Ragtime Band (1938) (9850719) **6.00 Fletch Lives** (1989) (81988055) **7.35 Battle of the Bulge** (1965) (42825177) **10.00 The Accused** (1988) (9235784) **11.50 The Rachel Papers** (1989) (6491413) **1.25am Stage Fright** (1950) (4009388) **3.15 Fletch Lives** (1989) (7574104) **4.45 Close**

TNT

9.00pm My Favourite Year (1982) (56784245) **11.00 The Wind** (1928) (88229803) **12.30am Young Cassidy** (1965) (88124104) **2.30 My Favourite Year** (1982) (61399949) **5.00 Close**

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre (43535) **7.30** Football League Review (59142) **8.00** V-Max (64500) **8.30** Sports Centre (63871) **9.00** Racing News (60351) **9.30** Aerobics (99055) **10.00** Spanish Primera Liga (31719) **12.00** Aerobics (47887) **12.30pm** Football Special (80983) **1.30** Sports Unlimited (81622) **2.30** Spanish Primera Liga (61142) **4.30** Tartan Extra (8448) **5.00** Wrestling (4351) **6.00** Sports Centre (4413) **6.30** Big Fight Countdown (1999) **7.00** Pool (46245) **8.00** Ice Wars (46993) **9.30** Big Fight Countdown (85535) **10.00** Sports Centre (48516) **10.30** The Footballers' Football Show (31806) **11.30** Tartan Extra (21871) **12.00** Sports Centre (10388) **12.30am** Sports Unlimited (85185) **1.30** Pro Beach Soccer (80630) **2.30** Footballers' Football Show (36982) **3.30** Sports Centre (91098) **4.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics (9708906) **7.30** Sports Centre (9814413) **8.00** Racing News (5457969) **8.30** Fish TV (11946852) **9.30** Football League Review (7503516) **10.00** World Motor Sport (9851993) **2.00pm** NHL (2606622) **4.00** NHL Olympic Teams (8796516) **4.30** Belgrade: Race Through History (5612500) **5.00** Pro Beach Soccer (2103974) **6.00** Sports Unlimited (7515551) **7.00** Sports Centre (2104603) **7.30** FA Cup Second Round Replay — Live (51444577) **10.00** NHL (2777018) **12.00** Survival of the Fittest (8685982) **12.30am** Football (2315291) **2.00** Sports Centre (5985630) **2.30** Squash (2342098) **3.30** Cricket: Australia v New Zealand — Live (1897388)

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00pm Wrestling (81440284) **1.00** Fish TV (81353784) **2.00** Super League Classics (32447784) **3.30** Badminton (95067332) **5.30** BMX (24431500) **6.30** Survivat of the Fittest (28772332) **7.00** Fish TV (56601968) **8.00** Squash (56783516) **9.00** Pool (56690852) **10.00** Superbouts (56800239) **11.00** The Road to Negano (35706622)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Bobsleigh (80808) **8.30** Skiing (89429) **10.00** Cross-Country Skiing (48622) **11.00** Biathlon (88581) **12.30pm** Eurogoals (27284) **2.00** Football (28784) **3.00** Football: Saudi Arabia v Australia — Live (48056) **5.00** Football: Brazil v Mexico — Live (53448) **7.00** Weightlifting (88413) **8.00** Boxing: Johnny Nelson v Alexander Gurov — Live (51177) **10.00** Football (67784) **11.00** Showjumping (47351) **12.00** World Cup Dream Team (22776) **12.30am** Close

UK GOLD

7.00am Bullseye (4435887) **7.35** Neighbours (4148852) **8.00** Crossroads (2388061) **8.25** EastEnders (6660326) **9.00** The Bill (6069784) **9.30** Howards' Way (93793326) **10.00** Bless This House (1510887) **10.30** The Sullivans (6069968) **11.00** Boon (8167974) **12.00** Crossroads (48229718) **12.25pm** Neighbours (48222806) **12.55** EastEnders (2153516) **1.30** Hi-De-Hi (4348336) **2.10** 2point4 Children (8616177) **2.50** Last of the Summer Wine (9311968) **3.30** The Bill (3904332) **4.00** Juliet Bravo (38743426) **5.05** EastEnders (1207719) **5.40** Bob's Full House (4286993) **6.25** That's Showbusiness (2238608) **7.00** Last of the Summer Wine (3812587) **7.45** The Liver Birds (9911784) **8.20** 2point4 Children (9195595) **9.00** The Bill (1854681) **9.30** Spender (86304429) **10.40** French and Saunders (5691448) **11.20** Canned Carrot (4273897) **12.00 FILM: Blind Vision** (1990) (66533949) **1.25am** Miami Vice (11859272) **2.30** Shopping (8363611)

GRANADA PLUS

8.00am The Box (8082142) **7.00** Coronation St (8486687) **7.30** Families (6561332) **8.00** Blind Date (6185351) **9.00** Within These Walls (4027622) **10.00** Donahue (6567516) **11.00** Hart to Hart (6474852) **12.00** Coronation St (8990974) **12.30pm** Families (2480429) **1.00** On the Buses (6485988) **1.30** Please Sir! (2389500) **2.00** The Good Guys (7096790) **3.00** Donahue (7290332) **4.00** Mission: Impossible (7113239) **5.00** Hawaii Five-O (3054245) **6.00** Families (7327806) **6.30** Coronation St (7318158) **7.00** Blind Date (8637089) **8.00** Hart to Hart (8288577) **9.00** Coronation St (7208351) **9.30** Hale and Pace (2473993) **10.00** Hawaii Five-O (4482910) **11.00** Close

CARLTON SELECT (cable)

5.00pm Gridlock (82932069) **5.30** Hey Dad (!! (26993871) **6.00** Blockbusters (26890784) **6.30** A Country Practice (28787264) **7.00** Get Back (37083513) **7.30** Our House (26783448) **8.00** Desmond's (21788121) **8.30** The Big One (32033018) **9.00** Shine On, Harvey Moon (56605784) **10.00** Bread and Roses (56808671) **11.00** St Elsewhere (84484158) **12.00** Let the Blood Run Free (63761524) **12.30am** Tales of the Unexpected (54076340) **1.00** Close

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Under the Umbrella Tree **6.30** Rosie and Jim **6.45** Winnie the Pooh **7.00** Aladdin: The Series **7.30** Tex Avery **8.00** Dinosaurs **8.30** Bonkers **9.00** Gummi Bears **9.30** Chip 'n' Dale **9.55** Small Stones **10.00** Sesame St **11.00** Winnie the Pooh **11.15** Rosie and Jim **11.35** Sing Me a Story **12.00** Tots TV **12.30pm** It's Fun to Learn with Spot **12.45** Winnie the Pooh **1.00** Sesame St **2.00** Amazing Animals **2.30** Gummi Bears **3.00** Tale Spin **3.30** Goof Troop **4.00** Timon and Pumbaa **4.30** Aladdin: The Series **5.00** Gargoyles **5.30** Dinosaurs **6.00** Blossom **6.30** Boy Meets World **7.00** Home Improvement **7.30** Wonder Years **8.00 FILM: The Santa Clause** **9.30** Home Improvement **10.00** Close

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Delty and His Friends **6.30** Billy the Cat **7.00** Pinocchio **7.30** Power Rangers Zeo **8.00** Beetleborgs **8.30** Masked Rider **9.00** Magic Box **9.30** Dudley the Dragon **10.00** Inspector Gadget **10.30** Samurai Pizza Cats **11.00** Sweet Valley High **12.00** Ace Ventura **12.30pm** Casper **1.00** The Tick **1.30** Iron Man **2.00** Fantastic Four **2.30** Power Rangers Zeo **3.00** Beetleborgs **3.30** Masked Rider **4.00** Ace Ventura **4.30** Casper **5.00** The Tick **5.30** X Men **6.00** Spidermen **6.30** Sweet Valley High

TCC

6.00am Happily Ever After **6.30** Bobby's World **7.00** Sprou **7.30** Dennis the Menace **8.00** Batman **8.30** Batman **9.00** Earthworm Jim **9.30** Romuald the Reindeer **9.45** Romuald the Reindeer **10.00** Oscar's Orchestra **10.30** Flash Gordon **11.00** Iznogoud **11.30** Gigantor **12.00** Sprou **12.30pm** Sonic **1.00** Batman **1.30** AJ's Time Travellers **2.00** Iznogoud **2.30** Flash Gordon **3.00** Sonic **3.30** Earthworm Jim **4.00** Dennis the Menace **4.30** Batman

CARTOON NETWORK

All your favourite cartoons broadcast from **5.00am** to **9.00pm**, seven days a week.

NICKELODEON

6.00am Killer Tomatoes **6.30** Aaahh! Real Monsters **7.00** Hey Arnold! **7.30** Rugrats **8.00** Doug **8.30** Neverending Story **9.00** CBBC **10.00** Wimzie's House **10.30** Babar **11.00** Magic School Bus **11.30** Bananas in Pyjamas **12.00** Paddington Bear etc **12.30pm** Little Red Tractor etc **1.00** Dr Seuss **1.30** Little Bear Stories **2.00** Animal Show **2.30** CBBC **3.30** Rocko/Doug **4.00** Angry Beavers **4.30** Rugrats **5.00** Sister Sister **5.30** Kenan and Kel **6.00** Sabrina the Teenage Witch **6.30** Moesha **7.00** Close

TROUBLE

12.00pm Swan's Crossing **12.30** Ready or Not **1.00** Madison **1.30** California Dreams **2.00** Saved by the Bell **2.30** Swan's Crossing **3.00** 9-2-5 **3.30** Ready or Not **4.00** Saved by the Bell **4.30** USA High **5.00** Hangtime **5.30** California Dreams **6.00** TX Sx **6.30** Madison **7.00** Hangtime **7.30** USA High **8.00** Close

CHALLENGE TV

5.00pm Cross Wits **5.30** Move on Up **6.00** Family Fortunes **6.30** Catchphrase **7.15** The $64,000 Question **8.00** Split Second **8.30** Karaoke Challenge **9.15** Winner Takes All **10.00** Treasure Hunt **11.15** Karaoke Challenge **12.00** Say the Word **12.30am** Hart to Hart **1.30** The Big Valley **2.30** Explorer **3.30** Where I Live **4.00** Jeux sans Frontieres **5.00** Screenshop

BRAVO

8.00pm The A-Team (4818239) **9.00** Tour of Duty (4994603) **10.00** Red Shoe Diaries (5093448) **10.45 FILM: Vice Academy 5** (1996) (46292402) **12.35am** Leslie Nielson's Unbalanced World (1107543) **12.45** Tour of Duty (1224185) **1.45** Red Shoe Diaries (5323017) **2.30 FILM: Extreme Prejudice** (1987) (1125746) **4.20** Leslie Nielson's Unbalanced World (85858340) **4.30** Family Dog (4584235) **5.00** Starsky and Hutch (4435017)

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Grace Under Fire (3822) **7.30** Roseanne (5719) **8.00** Ellen (6142) **8.30** Cybill (8177) **9.00** Cheers (13429) **9.30** Taxi (83177) **10.00** Frasier (46156) **10.30** Kenny Everett (55806) **11.00** Festival of Fun (18974) **11.30** Ellen (29413) **12.00** *Roseanne (22730)* **12.30am** *Nightstand* (62253) **1.00** Soap (44017) **1.30** Taxi (67456) **2.00** Festival of Fun (89253) **2.30** Grace Under Fire (75348) **3.00** Frasier (24253) **3.30** Kenny Everett (82340)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

8.00pm Sightings (3013156) **9.00** Dark Skies (3026622) **10.00** Making of *Starship Troopers* (3747142) **10.30** Masters of Fantasy (3829790) **11.00** Friday the 13th (63186603) **12.00** Sightings (2639712) **1.00am** Twilight Zone (9623765) **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected (3335475) **2.00** Dark Shadows (7457746) **2.30** New Hitchcock (7436253) **3.00** Friday the 13th (9235185)

HOME & LEISURE

9.00am The Joy of Painting **9.30** Garden Club **10.00** Garden Party **10.30** New Yankee Workshop **11.00** Andy's Angling Adventures **11.30** Hometime **12.00** The Dicaman **12.30pm** Hammer It Home **1.00** Yan Can Cook **1.30** The Restoration Game **2.00** Furniture on the Mend **2.30** Antiques Trail **3.00** Two's Country **3.30** Home Again

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Bush Tucker Man (3818581) **4.30** Flightline (3910993) **5.00** Ancient Warriors (8138351) **5.30** Beyond 2000 (3901245) **6.00** Australian Sea Lion Story (9452603) **7.00** Mysterious Universe (8125887) **7.30** Disaster (3811622) **8.00** Discover Magazine (4814413) **9.00** Raging Planet (4907177) **10.00** Blood and Guts (6151719) **10.30** A Time to Kill? (6064239) **11.00** Outback Investigator (8073581) **12.00** The Dicaman (7210727) **12.30am** Wheel Nuts (7821307) **1.00** Disaster (5134974) **1.30** Beyond 2000 (9806611) **2.00** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm Okavango (8870993) **8.00** The Big Five of Africa (8783413) **9.00** Reef at Ras



AMERICAN FOOTBALL 41
Dallas Cowboys drop out of play-off picture

SPORT

TUESDAY DECEMBER 16 1997

SPORTS BOOKS 42
Times writers offer their pick from this year's crop



England Test captain off to Jamaica heartened by one-day successes in Sharjah

Atherton plays down rivalry with Hollioake

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

THE absentee captain absorbed the news from Sharjah yesterday with a detached contentment. Michael Atherton is comfortable with his decision to miss the Champions Trophy and delighted that England have reached the final without him, an eight-run victory over Pakistan yesterday preserving their 100 per cent record. But he is ready to return, refreshed by his longest break from cricket in several years and eager to resume control for the weightier business of the new year.

After a month of intensive training and individual net sessions with Graham Gooch, Atherton heads for Jamaica on Friday — not on a reconnaisance mission but for a Christmas holiday. Late next month, he will be back on the island for the first Test of a series that he passionately believes capable of giving him the greatest success of his captaincy tenure.

It bothers him not a jot that England may well now travel to West Indies as favourites. "I don't see that as disconcerting or daunting," he said. "I would much prefer to go there with everyone in the country believing in us as much as I do."

Even Atherton does not know what the limit of his command will be when the team leaves on January 3, but he is less troubled by the conundrum than most. If it is thought that the leadership of Adam Hollioake in Sharjah merits a show of continuity for the one-day internationals that end the West Indies tour, there will be no argument from Atherton. His only concern is that the issue should not be distracting; ideally, it should be determined before departure.

Rest has been good for Atherton. The stress, fatigue and lost perspective of late summer, responsible for his unusual confusion over continuing as captain, has all been left behind. Yesterday, at home in Manchester but with an eye on the brainteasing run-rate permutations in Sharjah — India, West Indies and Pakistan all still have a chance of meeting England in the final on Friday — he looked forward with conviction and enthusiasm.

"I am ready for some cricket now," he said. "I've trained hard, with the squad and by myself and I've worked on my batting with Goochie, who has been a great help. There is no more I can usefully do indoors and I'm looking forward to getting started in the Caribbean."

He is keen to lay to rest any perception of rivalry between Hollioake and himself. "Other people have tried to build it up but it just doesn't exist," he said. "I was not available for this trip and I'm pleased it has gone well for Adam. It's up to the selectors to decide which of us should captain the one-dayers in the West Indies but it would obviously be best to cut short the speculation with an early decision, if possible.

"I am not a bit surprised that the boys have done well in Sharjah. It was a unit chosen specifically for a one-day event, something we have not often been able to do before, and the preparation was outstanding. They have shown the benefit of that and done themselves full justice."

Although he admits to "just a moment when I wished I was flying out there with them", there is no envy in Atherton's dissection. You sense he has gained far more from the rare taste of an English winter and that England will now benefit from his refocused mind.

"I am full of optimism about this tour," he said. "Always have been, really, but the events of the past month or so have obviously helped. There is a good feeling about our team, from the management down, while the West Indies clearly have some problems.

"It was no surprise to me that they were well beaten in Pakistan, although the margins were pretty big. Pakistan are a very good side, with match-winning bowlers, and West Indies simply aren't as strong as they were ten or 15 years ago.

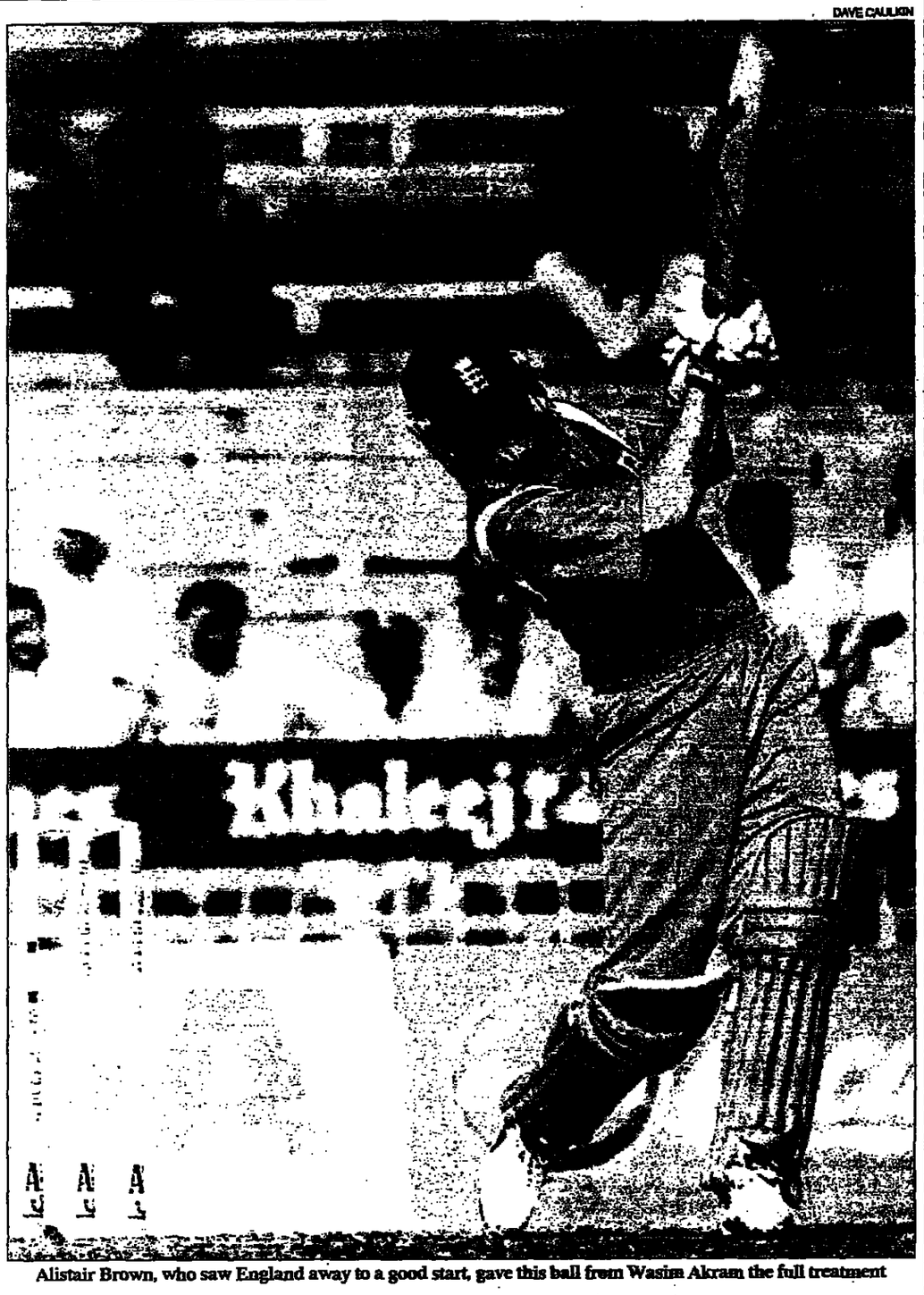
"Having said that, they are always a different proposition at home and, realistically, we haven't got an attack to compare with Pakistan's. I'm not getting carried away, and nor should anyone else, but it doesn't worry me if the bookmakers want to make us favourites."

Sensibly, he prefers to keep his thoughts private on the West Indies captaincy dilemma — a genuine, potentially unpleasant rivalry between Courtney Walsh and Brian Lara — but Atherton smiles his acknowledgement of a relief that, just for now, it is England's opponents who are stumbling in the dark. "I have heard plenty of things about their situation but it is something I prefer to observe rather than comment upon," he said. "I can see it will be pretty interesting if they make Lara captain, though, when the first Test is on Walsh's home island."

Atherton will spend Christmas there, though as remote from cricket talk as he can achieve. He will play golf, lie on a beach and probably drink a rum or two. Next time he lands on Jamaica, it will be on serious business.

England victory, page 46

DAVE CAULKIN



Alistair Brown, who saw England away to a good start, gave this ball from Wasim Akram the full treatment



Atherton and Hollioake, sharing a joke at Trent Bridge last season, could share captaincy duties in West Indies

Hoddle set to visit Morocco en route to France

BY MATT DICKINSON

ENGLAND'S World Cup preparations are set to take them via Africa, with Glenn Hoddle, the coach, close to agreeing to take part in a four-team competition in Morocco. France and Belgium have already signed up alongside the host country for the tournament at the end of May. England are expected to follow suit this week.

The biggest incentive for England is the chance to face North African opposition, having drawn Tunisia in group G at the finals in France next summer. Morocco, who are in Scotland's group, would be ideal stand-ins, particularly as, like Tunisia, they qualified for the World Cup finals unbeaten.

John Gorman, Hoddle's assisant, said yesterday: "Playing Morocco would have benefits, both for the players to get used to the weather and for them to face a North African team and get to grips with different styles. No final decision has been made, but the possibility of playing in the tournament is being discussed."

England's other opponents in the run-up to the World Cup could be finalised this week. Hoddle is keen to play a team from South America and that is likely to see a Wembley fixture in February against either Chile or Colombia, despite the latter being drawn in England's group in France. The planned trip to the United States in March is looking less likely, although an alternative arrangement has yet to be confirmed.

Whether Ian Wright, the Arsenal striker, will be involved in any of Hoddle's plans will be a topic of growing debate over the next few months. Wright was spoken to by police after his team's defeat against Blackburn Rovers on Saturday, when he shouted abuse at fans, and although no further action is likely, his frustration at his own lack of form is beginning to sour his relationship with the Arsenal supporters. Wright, 34, has more than two years left on his contract at Highbury, but Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, is busily scouring Europe to find a replacement.

Kendall's search, page 44

Montgomerie calls for captaincy delay

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

COLIN MONTGOMERIE yesterday called for a delay in the naming of Europe's Ryder Cup captain until just weeks before the 1999 event in Brookline, Boston, saying that it is the only way of finding the best man for the job.

Montgomerie, whose half-point against Scott Hoch won the Cup at Valderrama three months ago, said: "We don't need a captain until the event starts. Why do we need one during the qualification system? He won't tell us what to do at that stage.

"We don't have the likes of a Hale Irwin, a Ben Crenshaw or Tom Kite. The Americans have a choice of ten or 12 of that type of character. And, while Sam Torrance and Mark James spring to mind, they want to play. It's a terrible thing to take the captaincy and possibly accept that means you're finished as a player. You could tell that it hurt Seve Ballesteros."

Ballesteros, whose passionate if eccentric leadership inspired Europe in his home country of Spain, has ruled himself out as captain in 1999, as has Bernard Langer, of Germany. Montgomerie wants a system where the likes of Torrance and James could attempt to qualify as a player, but, if they didn't, could then take on the captaincy.

Montgomerie sees himself taking on the role in around eight years, but could have a rival for the captaincy when Ireland stages the event in 2005. Ian Woosnam, a Ryder Cup stalwart, said yesterday: "I would love to captain Europe in the future, ideally in Ireland in 2005."

Jones to undergo operation today

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

GWYN JONES, the Wales captain, who sustained a severe neck injury while playing for Cardiff on Saturday, is to have an operation today at the University Hospital of Wales, in Cardiff, in whose neurological department he has been since the accident.

"Gwyn Jones's medical team has advised that an operation could aid his recovery," a statement from the hospital said yesterday. Jones, 25, suffered a significant spinal cord injury when he became involved in a ruck during the Welsh League game with Swansea and doctors are cautious in predicting the extent of his recovery.

Jones, himself a medical student, who put his career on hold for two years so that he could concentrate on playing for and leading his country towards the 1999 World Cup, did not break his neck but sustained compression leading to significant weakness in his arms and legs. There was a degree of improvement during the 24 hours after the accident, but whether there can be further cause for optimism remains to be seen.

Ron Davies, the Welsh Secretary, yesterday sent a message of support to Jones's family. "Gwyn is an inspirational leader who has always shown great courage on the rugby field," Davies said. "I know that it will be some time before the full extent of his injury is known, but Gwyn and his family should be aware that the whole of Wales offers its best wishes that he makes a full recovery."

Clohessy recalled, page 45

Garden is looking rosy for Hamed

Srikumar Sen watches the world champion try to win over fans in New York

Naseem Hamed has taken a step in the right direction to establish himself as one of the world's leading boxers. No matter how much his friends and admirers in Britain might believe that he is the last word in boxing, he will never achieve recognition until he wins over the American public.

It is a difficult task because not only is he a foreigner, but Americans also have little interest in boxers from lighter divisions, believing only heavyweights and middleweights to be the stuff of icons. Even Julio Cesar Chavez, of Mexico, who was one of the greatest boxers of all time, appealed only to a few outside the Hispanic communities.

When Don King offered Chavez to HBO, the head of the television cable company, Seth Abraham, said that he was only interested in the welterweight if he could have Mike Tyson as well. Abraham is reported to have said: "I'm not interested in the caboose without the locomotive." The same man has now given his full backing to Hamed, a featherweight, who will be defending his World Boxing Council championshop against Kevin Kelley, of New York, at Madison Square Garden on Friday.

Hamed is the first Briton to head a promotion at the Garden since Ken Buchanan met Roberto Duran there 26 years ago. It is every boxer's dream to appear at the venue for the bouts of the great heavyweights, such as Joe Louis, Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier.

The main Garden holds 18,000, but Eric Gelfand, the venue's publicity director, said that if Hamed drew a crowd of 8,000 it would be a remarkable achievement. Gelfand expects 10,000. "That's a home run," he said, and puts it down to the marketability of Hamed. "As publicity material, Naz is as good as you get," Gelfand said. "He can never be an Ali and nothing can ever equal Ali's fight with Frazier in the Garden, but ... he is an exciting showman and, if he can produce in the ring anything like what he has done outside it, he has got the goods."

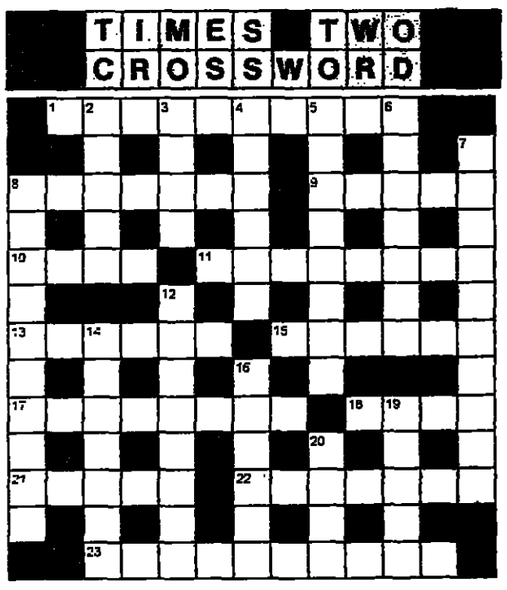
Hamed handles himself well in television interviews. When asked why HBO were spending millions to publicise an unknown fighter in the United States, Hamed said: "They have the confidence in me to be a rising star. I am destined to be a legend. They are looking at a long-term investment."



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TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1278

ACROSS
1 Bardic festival (10)
8 Widely liked (7)
9 Fetter: shop group (5)
10 Part to be played (4)
11 Disconnect (linked parts) (8)
13 Pail (6)
15 Unelected admin body (6)
17 *Hilltop path* (8)
18 Trad. wisdom, knowledge (4)
21 Throw out of house (5)
22 Stimulate (interest); speed up (7)
23 Sporting-hero memorial building (4,2,4)

DOWN
2 Motivate, drive (5)
3 Mah-jong piece: one on wall, floor (4)
4 Bold (6)
5 Man of all work (8)
6 Expressionless (7)
7 Mother of Eliz. I (4,6)
8 (US) vote-buying funds (*slang*) (4,6)
12 On which the admired are placed (8)
14 *Ungentlemanly; sounds like Jewish prayer* (7)
16 Macbeth saw his ghost (6)
19 Old rope fibres (5)
20 Brief moment (*slang*) (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1277
ACROSS: 1 Carbon 5 Card 8 Ward 9 Renounce 10 Foregone 11 Cord 12 Aye aye 14 Toledo 16 Wild 18 Code name 20 Flat spin 21 Curd 22 Word 23 Breath
DOWN: 2 Anatomy 3 Budge 4 Narrow escape 5 Council 6 Recur 7 Inverted snob 13 Audited 15 Demerit 17 Igloo 19 Niche

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